LIFESTYLE / C1

British Tatler interviews 'Imeldific' in 8-page spread showing her humor, resilience, etc.

NEWS / A4

Another Bayan Muna leader killed in Quezon

WORLD / A29

Nepal king pledges to relinquish power but protests rage on

ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1

How's Julia Roberts's first outing on Broadway? Grim reviews from drama critics

Guarding Gloria: Defensor fumes over Cavite incident

PAANO NAKALUSOT YUN E TIGHT ANG SECURITY?!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

WHO GOOFED?

Caught flat-footed by a blitzkrieg protest in what was supposed to be a benign affair, Malacañang has ordered a full review of its advance security procedures after a stu-

GUARDING/ A8

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, April 23, 2006 ★★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 134 P18 website: www.inq7.net

First Pinoy space writers nominated for 'Emme'

By Volt Contreras

ONE GAZES AT THE SKIES FROM QUEZON City, the other from another time zone in California. But both proved that Filipinos rank among the best in turning the high-tech world of space science into a down-to-earth subject.

Co-authors Peter Galace and Virgil Labrador

FIRST / A8

Oil prices hit all-time high

Wild week on top of wild week ends with $75.17/barrel

NEW YORK—OIL FUTURES surged to a new high above $75 a barrel Friday (Saturday in Manila), capping a record-breaking week in commodity markets.

Oil prices ended with a $5 jump this week alone, amid heightened concerns over Iran's nuclear program, interruptions in Nigeria's oil production and fresh fears about gasoline shortfalls in the United States this summer.

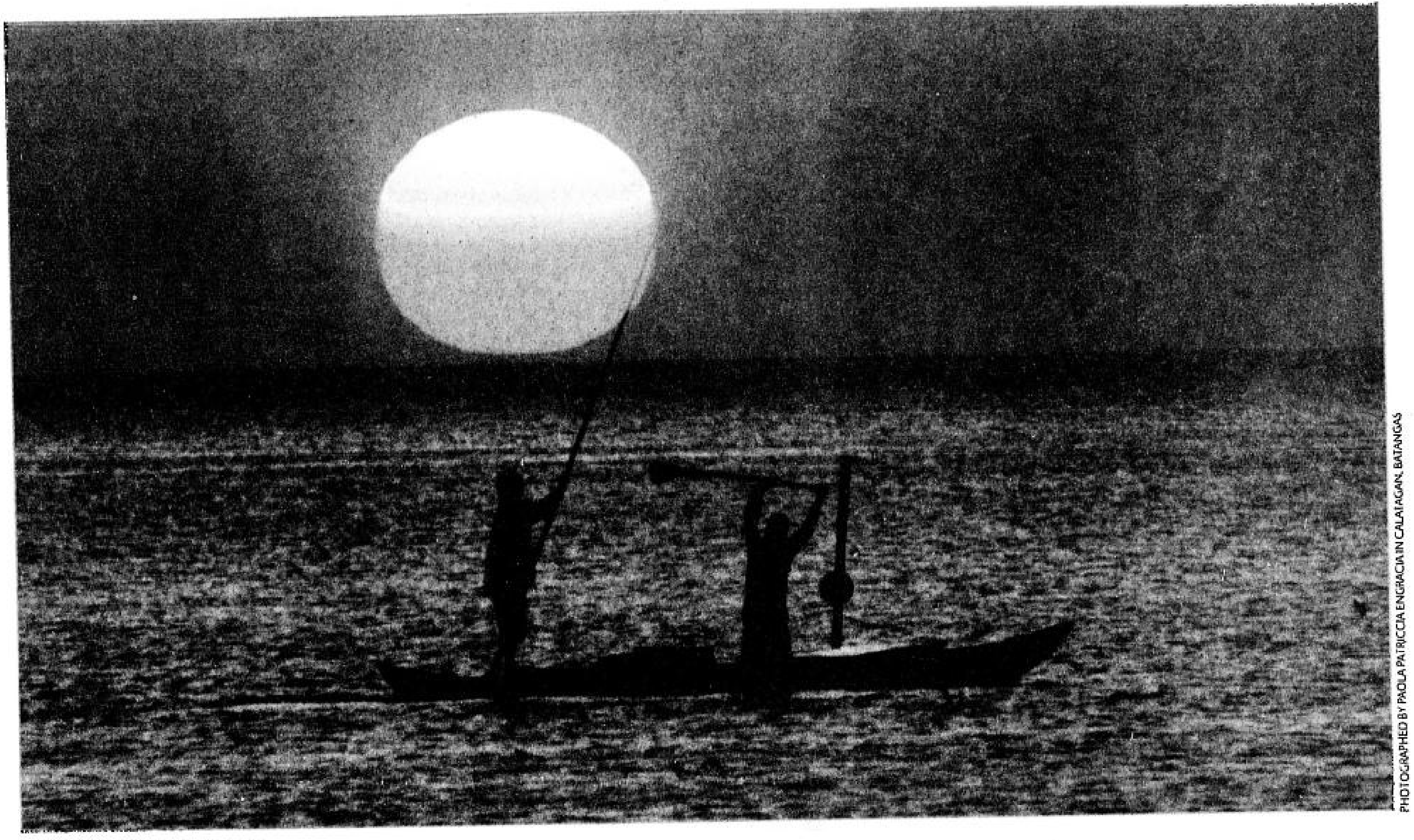
While Friday's price was the highest reached on the New York Mercantile Exchange since oil futures began trading there in 1983, it was lower than the inflation-adjusted record reached in 1981 of about $85 a barrel in today's dollars.

Crude oil for June delivery rose to $75.17 a barrel, up $1.48. Futures touched an intra-day trading high of $75.35 a barrel. Oil prices, up 23 percent this year, have more than doubled in two years.

In London, the June contract for Brent North Sea crude also hit a historic high of $74.79 a barrel before settling back to close at $74.57, up 1.39 percent.

"It's been a wild week on top of the previous wild week, coming after a wild year," said Thomas Bentz, an oil broker with BNP Paribas in New York. "And it seems like there's no slowing this

OIL PRICES/ A10



PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAOLA PATRICCIA ENGRACIA IN CALATAGAN, BATANGAS

SPLENDOR IN THE SUN
There is something to be said about the setting and the rising of the summer sun. Its intensities. The reflections of its colors in the landscape of sea and sky. The awesome possibilities of its being. But one cannot speak before the sun's majesty and beauty. Take it all in before the majesty goes, the lightness and the beauty dim into darkness.

Cardinal: Give Earth back its primal strength

By Blanche S. Rivera

FROM ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS symbols of environmental destruction in the world, an apology to Mother Earth and a reprimand to humanity rang out yesterday.

"Give the earth back its primal strength by respecting the laws of nature instead of abusing its bounty for greed and profit," Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said in his homily at Manila's Smokey Mountain, once a massive heap of trash that stood for years as a symbol of poverty in the country.

Rosales led environmentalists, businessmen and government officials, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, in celebrating Earth Day at the former mountain of shame, which is now a resettlement site.

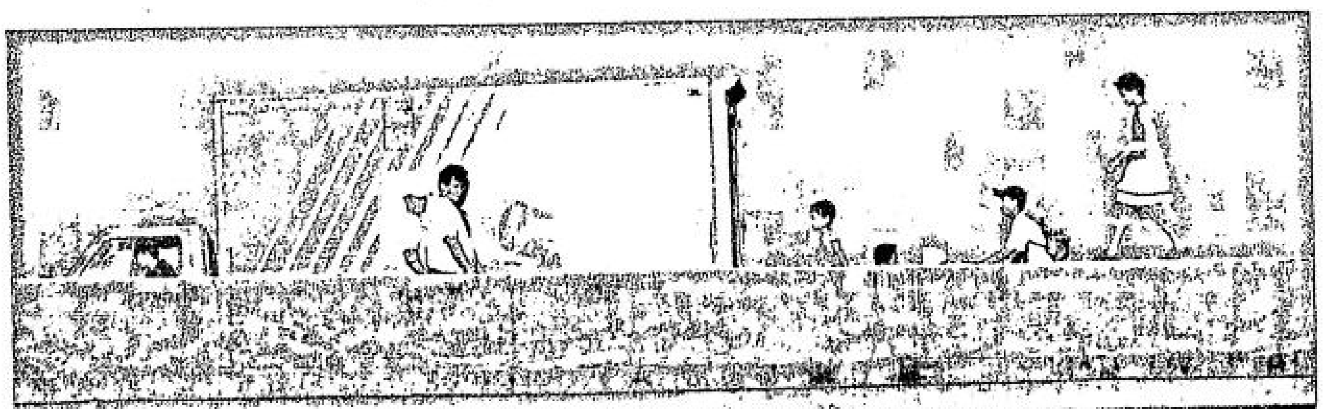
Rosales blamed human greed for destroying the balance in nature and endangering future generations.

"The earth does not belong to humans; humans belong to the earth. And if they need to protect and prolong their lives, they must, of necessity, protect and prolong the life of their home, the planet, the Earth," Rosales said.

He called on the people to preserve the environment by planting trees, reviving watersheds, replenishing aquifers and disposing of their garbage properly.

"God has shown humans, through tragic experience, that nature has a way of

CARDINAL/ A8



BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER
Along Road 10 in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, the cantilevered construction of squatter shanties hangs from a busy bridge right over the river leading to the open sea. An architectural wonder found only in the Philippines. LYN RILLON

Erap: No apologies, they are forgiven

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ERAP HAS FORGIVEN THEM.

Former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said he had forgiven those who played a part in his ouster from Malacañang five years ago and who had come to visit him at his Tanay rest house detention or during his short furloughs.

Estrada readily ticked off the names of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, Sen. Manuel Villar, former Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada, as well as Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Loren Legarda—members of the Senate impeachment court.

"I've forgiven them. I am a Christian. I read the Bible three times a week," Estrada told the INQUIRER.

ERAP/ A6

GMA, military prepared to protect turf from Senate's 'rogue' inquiries

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

THE SUPREME COURT MAY HAVE SPOKEN on the issue of Executive Order No. 464 but the battle over what can and cannot be disclosed to the public seems far from over.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is prepared to protect her turf, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye declared yesterday after senators announced their plan to resume their probes into alleged government irregularities.

"The Office of the President shall safeguard executive privilege on matters of national security and the public interest, and muckraking politicians must not think they can push the executive branch around," Bunye said in a statement.

"The high court has upheld the legitimacy of executive privilege and this will be invoked against rogue inquiries staged for political mischief rather than in aid of legislation."

Asked if Armed Forces officials would now testify in congressional hearings they had previously snubbed, spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado said the military "will comply" with the decision of the Supreme Court, which struck down portions of Ms Arroyo's EO 464 last week.

But Honrado quickly added: "We have precedent rules and regulations governing disclosure and that will be invoked."

"While it's always said that government agencies are required by law to inform the public, there are exceptions," Honrado added.

He referred to the 1989 Code of Ethics and Conduct of Public Officials which says government offices shall provide official information, records or documents to the requesting public, except in seven instances.

According to the law, information may be kept secret in certain cases, such as:

- In the interest of national security or in the conduct of foreign affairs;
- When a person would be put in imminent danger;
- When the information falls under established privilege or other exceptions set by law;
- When it compromises drafts or policy decisions;
- When it invades personal privacy;
- When it interferes with law enforcement proceedings; or
- When it prematurely discloses new regulations and government actions.

Honrado said he was referring to documents in general and not just particularly to the military's controversial "Mayuga Report" which cleared three generals of involvement in alleged election fraud to help Ms Arroyo win the 2004 presidential election.

Despite an outcry from the Senate, the military has doggedly refused to fully disclose the contents of the report prepared

GMA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/23/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

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Teves sees balanced budget by 2008

WASHINGTON—THE PHILIPPINES, ASIA'S SEcond largest sovereign debt issuer after Japan, expects to attain a balanced budget in 2008 rather than the original target date of 2010, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said here on Friday (Saturday in Manila).

Teves said the country's fiscal deficit is expected to narrow to 2.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year from 2.7 percent last year then shrink further to one percent in 2007.

"In 2008 we expect to have a balanced budget principally from revenues from our expanded VAT (value-added tax)," Teves told Reuters on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund's semiannual meeting in Washington.

The government expects the VAT to perk up the tax-to-GDP ratio by 1.3 percent of GDP, while administrative measures are seen to add another 0.6 percentage point, bringing up the ratio to 14.6 percent this year from 12.7 percent last year.

"This time we're trying to finance ourselves through our own resources, rather than going to markets or multilaterals," Teves said moments after meeting with a half dozen IMF and World Bank officials. "We're trying to improve our capital markets and to expand our secondary market."

The government has vowed to intensify revenue collection efforts to achieve a GDP growth target of at least 5.7 this year while keeping the budget deficit within the target of P125 billion or 2.1 percent of GDP

On Friday, the World Bank said it planned to resume sector reform loans to the Philippines due to Manila's improved fiscal position.

The WB had halted the loans, which the government used to fund its budget deficit, because of delays and limited success in promised reforms.

Teves said Manila plans to issue less debt in the coming years due to growing VAT revenues, and aims to target its denomination mix at 60-65 percent in pesos this year and next.

"We've talked with credit rating agencies and maybe Moody's might consider an upgrade as long as we meet our fiscal target this year," he said.

Overall macroeconomic conditions such as the fiscal balance and inflation should gradually improve.

In 2005, the budget deficit stood at P146.5 billion, much lower than the official ceiling of P180 billion set for the year and the P187.1 billion deficit recorded in 2004.

Annual inflation of 7.6 percent should remain high in the near term because of high oil prices and carry-over effects of last year's increase in the VAT to 12 percent from 10 percent but consumer prices should moderate in the mid-term, he said.

The government is ramping up agricultural infrastructure spending in the first half of 2006 ahead of the rainy season in a bid to spur growth which it hopes will cut food prices.

Farm output last year grew at an anemic two percent compared with its recent annual averages of 4-5 percent so investing in this sector should increase supply and lower retail prices for low-income earners, Teves said.

"Hopefully, some improvement in the peso should have some bearing on inflation," he added.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has held overnight rates steady for the last six months at 7.50 percent for borrowing and 9.75 percent for lending—a four-year high point.

Manila is also trying to generate revenues through some privatizations in the power generation industry, he said.

The opening up of the country's wholesale electricity spot market, vital to the sale of state-owned power plants, should be ready in July or August rather than June—as was expected by analysts.

"Let's give it until July or August to allow for slippages," Teves said. *Reuters*

WORLD BANK group president Paul Wolfowitz (center), Philippine Finance Secretary and chair of G-24 Margarito Teves (left) and Philippine Finance Undersecretary and chair of deputies Roberto Tan head for their seats at the start of the Group of 24 Ministers meeting April 21 in Washington. AP PHOTO

Audit of World Bank sought as part of anticorruption drive

WASHINGTON—SEVERAL INTERnational antipoverty movements called Friday for an audit of the operations of the World Bank as part of WB president Paul Wolfowitz's campaign to crack down on corruption.

"The World Bank should adopt an approach that starts looking at itself," stressed Lidy Nacpil of Jubilee South, a network of activist groups in the Philippines.

"That's why we ask for a fully open audit of its activities." She said the approach adopted by Wolfowitz "refuses to look at itself about its role in perpetuating corruption through its lending conditionalities and corporate corruption."

This developed as finance ministers from the Group of 24 developing countries on Friday rejected an International Monetary Fund proposal that offers to increase the voting power of a few emerging economic powers in the IMF.

"This is one of the most pressing issues facing the membership," said Philippine Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who is also chairman of the G-24.

G-24 officials said they would prefer a more comprehensive package of proposals with a firm deadline and called for "concrete progress" by the next IMF meetings in Singapore in September.

"We would like to see a more fundamental review of the whole issue," Ariel Buira, director of the G-24 Secretariat, told a news conference on Friday.

As part of his anticorruption drive, Wolfowitz is insisting that a degree of good governance be practiced in countries seeking fresh credits or program financing from the bank.

But Nacpil maintained that this condition "will lead the Bank to exercise greater intervention in our affairs and our economies."

Other nongovernmental organizations have urged that legislatures in countries where the WB finances development projects be consulted as part of the institution's anticorruption efforts.

"It should not be up to a few officials at the World Bank in Washington to decide who is corrupt (in the beneficiary countries) and who is not," said Antonio Tricarico of the Italian group CRBM.

Activists argued that for every impoverished official willing to accept a bribe, there is a rich Western company doling out largesse to grease the wheels of bureaucracy to get its way with a business deal.

International institutions such as the IMF and World Bank are just as guilty, they argue.

Developing countries have long pushed for changes in the IMF's voting structures to better reflect their rising power in the world economy, arguing that the current system undermines the legitimacy of the fund.

IMF managing director Rodrigo Rato has proposed a two-stage process starting with ad hoc increases in the IMF quota, or subscriptions, for some emerging countries like China, South Korea, Mexico and Turkey, possibly by September. A G-24 official said Singapore could also be included in the initial increases.

The quota largely determines a member's voting power in IMF decisions and is reviewed every five years, with the next review due in 2008. Quotas are currently calculated according to a member's gross domestic product, current account transactions, and official reserves.

The second stage is less clear but could see increases in the "basic votes" of African countries followed by possible adjustments in the number of seats on the board of directors skewed in favor of European countries. *AFP, Reuters*

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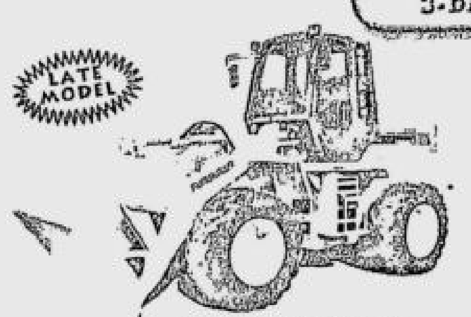

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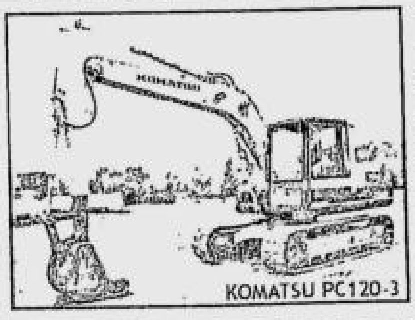

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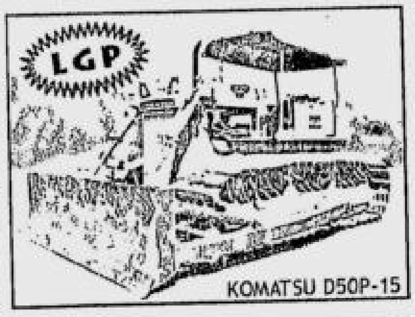

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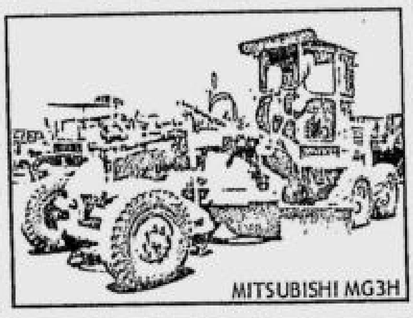

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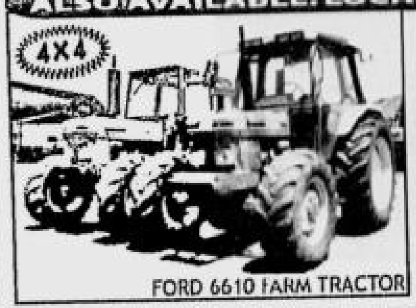

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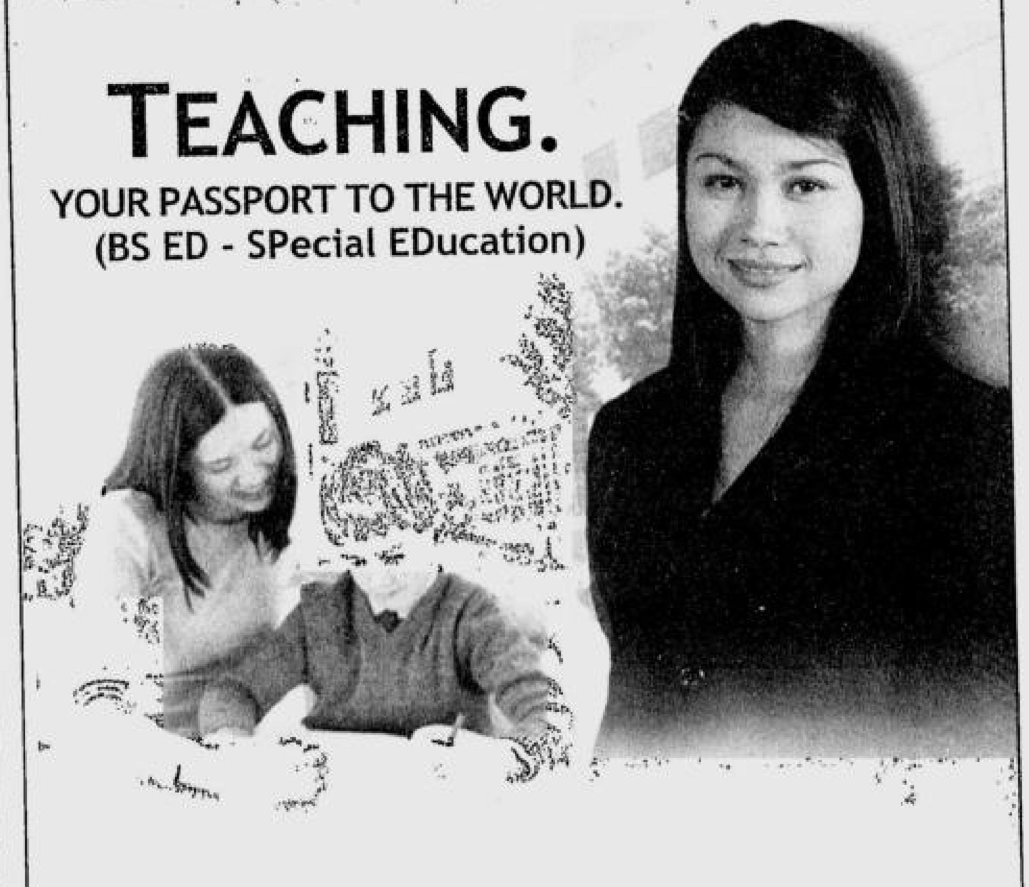

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Building a better RP begins with each Pinoy, new cyber group says

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HOW DOES ONE BUILD A BETTER PHILIPpines?

By starting with one Filipino at a time, according to a new movement called Ang Bagong Pinoy (APB).

Originally an online community of Filipinos across the world, ABP was launched yesterday as a group aiming to build a better country by starting with themselves.

"The members of the online community thought it was time to put our discussions into positive action so we set up this movement," said its founder, Ernesto "Boogie" Boydon, an IT specialist and educator.

The ABP, a virtual forum tackling Filipino pride, nationalism and issues like the "Hello Garci" controversy and the Ultra tragedy, was conceived on Feb. 26, 2005, as a result of Boydon's personal reflections on the state of the country 19 years after Edsa I.

Atmosphere of despair

In his blog or online journal, he pondered on the growing number of Filipinos who go abroad to escape the atmosphere of hopelessness and despair in the country.

"My son was barely a year old when we were out there on the streets during Edsa I. It was a glorious moment," Boydon told the INQUIRER yesterday at the ABP launch at the Asia Pacific Computer College in Makati City.

"Then I realized, it has been a generation since that day. My son has graduated from college, but it's as if nothing happened," he said.

On April 9, 2005, the APB online community (www.angbagongpinoy.org) was introduced to this principle: To effect change, it must be a collective effort.

The website drew an overwhelming number of responses from a broad spectrum of Filipinos—young and old, businessmen and government officials, employees and students—across the world, according to Boydon.

To date, the website has 2,089 active members. The ABP website also receives 30 messages per day and is said to be growing at the rate of 10 members a day.

"I suppose the movement will surpass the online community in terms of membership," he said.

Boydon explained at the launch yesterday that in order to effect change among Filipinos, the newly created movement aims to unite all of them regardless of taste or likes and dislikes, and overcome the sense of divisiveness or *kanya-kanya* (to each his own) mentality that has plagued the country throughout its history and culture.

Not a magic chamber

"But the movement is [not] a magic chamber that transforms people automatically by clicking on the 'join' button. Change is a long and painful process," he said.

He said the ABP created three pillars which the Filipinos could use as a guide to change oneself:

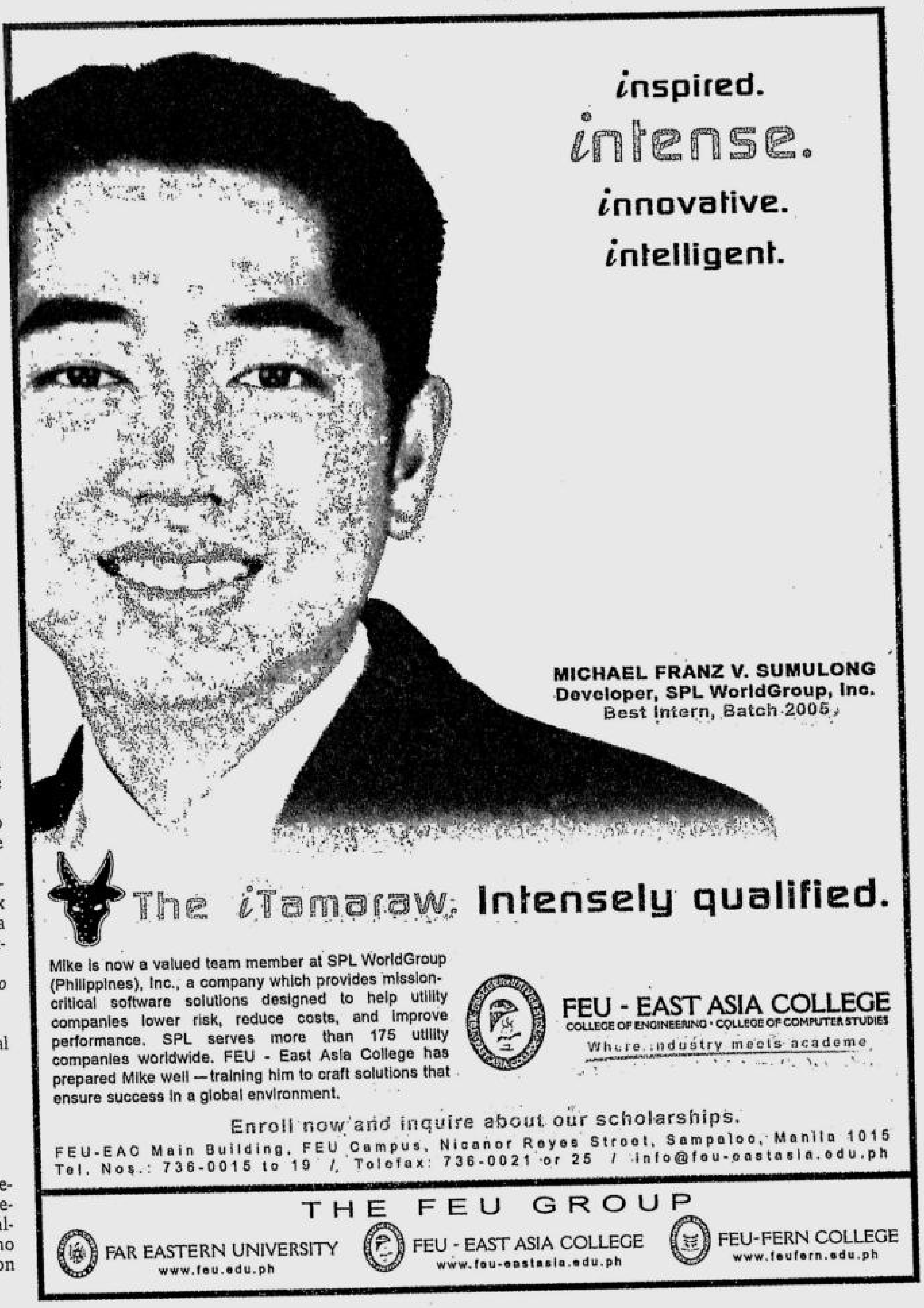
1. The Pearl Principle where the Filipino transforms a state of hopelessness into a state of optimism.

2. The book "The 12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do to Help Our Country" by Alex Lacson enumerates 12 simple, basic things a Filipino can do to improve the country, starting with himself.

3. The seven tenets of *Ulirang Pilipino* (Model Filipino). The model Pinoy:

- Loves God but is not fatalistic
- Places national interest over personal condition
- Puts a high premium on honesty
- Has a passion for excellence
- Does things for the good of society
- Has a global perspective
- Uses critical thinking

"The movement wants to recover and define the Filipino identity, an important element to help us achieve our goals. We really need to dig into our roots, find out who we are and promote ourselves," Boydon said.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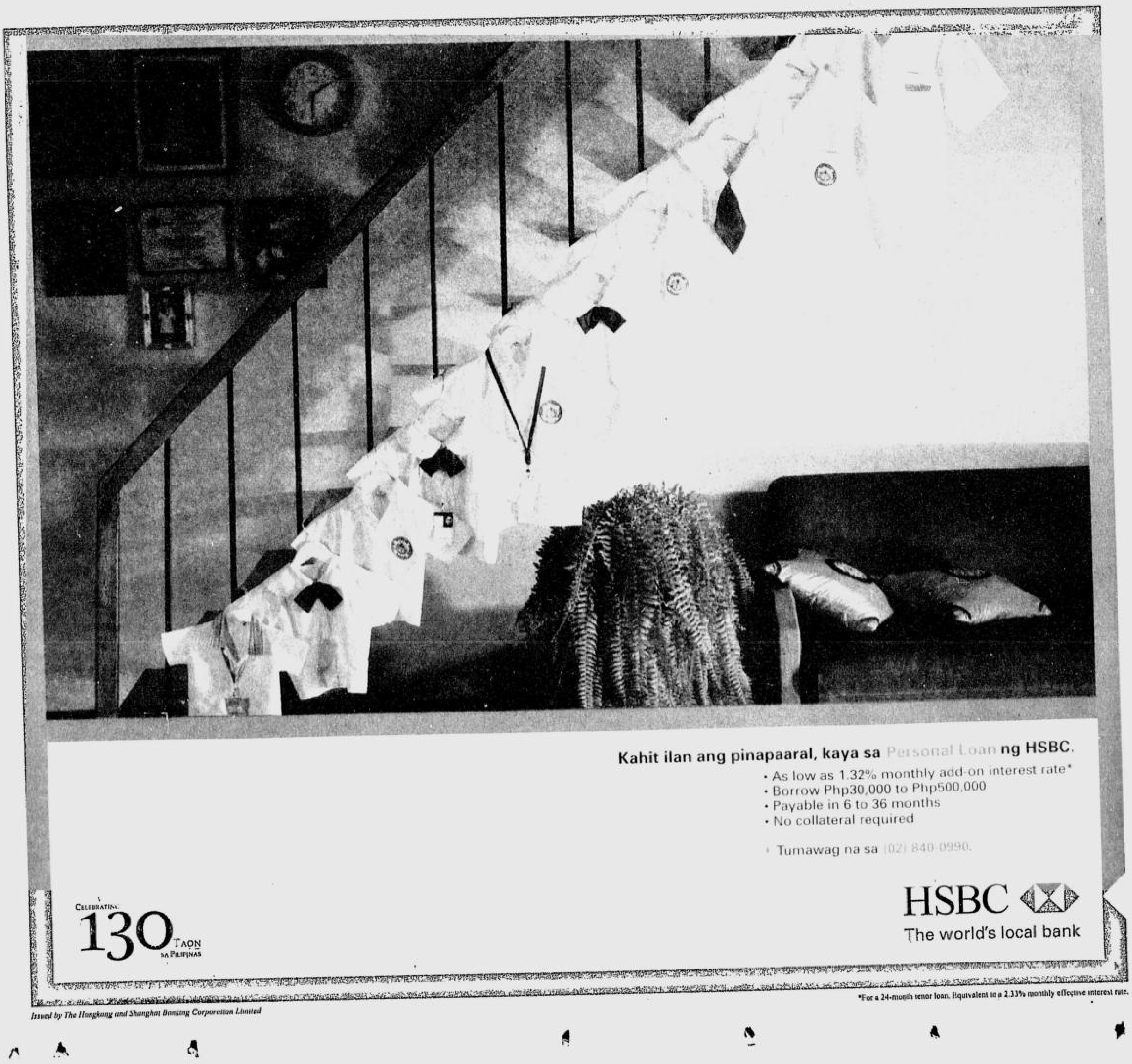
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Another Bayan Muna leader killed in Quezon

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A BAYAN MUNA activist in General Nakar, Quezon, was shot dead by still unidentified assailants early yesterday, the militant human rights group Karapatan said.

The victim, identified by the group as Marilou Sanchez, is the latest in the growing list of militant leaders gunned down in various parts of the country in recent months.

A group of armed men barged into Sanchez's house at around 3:30 a.m. and shot her, according to Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog.

The attackers also beat up the victim's husband, Larry, also a Bayan Muna leader in northern Quezon, Cuario said, quoting initial reports the group received.

The assailants also abducted Larry's brother and sister-in-law, Cuario said in a phone interview.

Cuario pointed to members of the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion as the "most likely suspects."

Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, said the military had no report on the incident.

"Coming from the left, it's probably another smear campaign against the military," he said.

Meanwhile, a father still tormented by the brutal death of his 23-year-old son last year has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to put a stop to the extrajudicial killings that have claimed hundreds of lives.

Salvador Montabon, 51, said six hooded armed men broke into their small house in Tarangnan, Western Samar, at 1 a.m. on March 7, 2005, and gunned down his son, Marvin, a member of the leftist group Anakpawis.

The gunmen then torched the house, burning his son's body and all the family's possessions.

"We are hoping that the killings will stop now and that those responsible be made to pay for what they have done," said Montabon.

Montabon joined other relatives, friends and colleagues of victims of extrajudicial killings who staged a silent protest at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City, yesterday morning as church bells pealed in sympathy.

The victims will meet in a public place every third Saturday of the month until December, Karapatan announced. Organizers said they were asking churches in Manila to ring their bells at 11 a.m. every day on behalf of those missing.

Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said 558 summary executions had been documented by human rights group since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001, with 56 killings recorded in the first quarter of 2006 alone. *With Jocelyn R. Uy and AFP*

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NPA rebels raid outpost, grab 17 guns

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OBANDO, BULACAN—ABOUT 50 communist rebels on Friday raided a government militia detachment in Barangay Binuangan here and took at least 17 firearms and ammunition without firing a shot.

Chief Insp. Rizalino Andaya, town police chief, said suspected New People's Army rebels used barangay chair William de Ocampo, whom they grabbed at his fishpond in Barangay Pariahan, as a decoy to gain entry into the outpost of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit (Cafgu).

Andaya said the militiamen mistook the rebels for village leaders and residents since Ocampo was with them. He said the rebels took 10 M-14, two M-16 and two M1 Garand rifles as well as three Carbines from the militiamen in the incident at 3 p.m. No one was hurt, police said.

The rebels had recently escalated attacks nationwide against isolated military and police units.

On Wednesday, guerrillas raided a police station in the province of Isabela and fled with six assault rifles and three shotguns also without firing their weapons.

Last week, rebels attacked an Army outpost in Misamis Occidental province, killing a soldier and a government militiaman and seizing 19 rifles and a machine gun.

The communist guerrillas have been waging a Maoist rebellion for 37 years. They suspended Norwegian-brokered peace talks with the Philippine government two years ago, mainly to protest Manila's refusal to ask the United States and the European Union to remove them from their terrorist blacklists. *With an AP report*

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A22 of the Metro section—"Chocolate factory closure legal, says Pasig exec"—referred to the chocolate factory as being owned by UFC. The factory is actually owned by URC or Universal Robina Corp.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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8am Bangus Fest Auto Show (City Plaza)
7pm Al Fresco Acoustic Night (City Plaza)
23 / Sunday
7 am Bangus Fest Amazing Race (San Fabian Start)
8 am Bangus Fest Auto Show (City Plaza)
7 pm Al Fresco Acoustic Night (City Plaza)
24 / Monday
Whole Day BANGUS CHALLENGE-Luzon Karate Games (Astrodome)
25 / Tuesday
Whole Day BANGUS CHALLENGE-Luzon Karate Games (Astrodome)
8 am Goodyear - Trade Fair (City Plaza)
8 pm Goodyear 50th Anniversary - Concert (City Plaza)
Trade, Livelihood & Employment Exhibit (Malimgas Market)
26 / Wednesday
8 am 101 Ways to Cook Bangus etc. (Malimgas Market)
7 am Finals: Bangus Fest Amazing Race (Pantal)
10 am (Awarding: Bangus Fest Amazing Race (Infront of Museum)
3 pm Basketball Gaymes of the 3rd Kind (Infront of Museum)
7 pm (Battle of the Bands) (City Plaza)
27 / Thursday
Whole Day Globe Day (City Plaza)
3 pm Opening of Beach Volleyball (City Plaza)
7 pm Bangus Fest King and Queen Finals (Infront of Museum)
Dagupan's Best (Malimgas Market)
28 / Friday
Whole Day Smart Day (City Plaza)
8 am Bangus Rodeo featuring LUMBAY BETEL (Malimgas Market)
3 pm Basketball Gaymes Championship (Infront of Museum)
7 pm The Big HIPHOP Bounce Rave Party
7 pm Concert at Malimgas Market
29 / Saturday
8 am Beach VolleyBall (City Plaza)
3 pm Gilon! Gilon! Street Dancing/Bangus ed Karosa (Downtown Streets)
7 pm Singing Contest (Quintos Bridge)
9 am Medical Outreach (Astrodome
30 / Sunday
8 am Beach VolleyBall (City Plaza)
5 pm Kalutan ed Dagupan "Bangus Sa Lansangan" (A.B. Fernandez Ave.)
May 1 / Monday
7 am Fluvial Parade (Pantal-Tondaligan)
9 am Pisasalamat (Mayor's Shed)
9 am Beach VolleyBall Championship (Tondaligan)
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7 pm Rock the Beach Concert (Amphi Theater)

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 23, 2006
2nd Sunday of Easter

Gospel: Acts 4:32-35

United, heart and soul

The whole community of believers was one in heart and mind. No one claimed private ownership of any possessions; but rather they shared all things in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, for all of them were living in an exceptional time of grace.

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned land or houses, sold them and brought the proceeds of the sale. And they laid it at the feet of the apostles who distributed it according to each one's need.

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Those who believe are born of God

All those who believe that Jesus is the Anointed, are born of God; if you love the Father you also love all those born of him. How may we know that we love the children of God? If we love God and fulfill his commands, for God's love requires us to keep his commands. In fact, his commandments are not a burden because all those born of God overcome the world. And the victory which overcomes the world is our faith. Who has overcome the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus Christ was acknowledged through water, but also through blood.

Not only water but water and blood.

And the Spirit, too, witnesses to him for the Spirit is truth.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Believe!

On the evening of that day, the first day after the Sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the Lord and were full of joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

There were many other signs that Jesus gave in the presence of his disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; believe and you will have life through his Name.

Commentary

During this season we hear of the Body of Christ and what it looks like now—the community of believers holding everything in common, and its members doing for one another what they wanted to do for the crucified Body of Christ. And this day we hear the most powerful of the stories of Jesus Risen, coming to his friends who are afraid, showing them the scars of his suffering and death, breathing upon them, giving over his own Spirit to them, and sending them forth to do what he was sent by his Father into the world to do. But Thomas is missing and doesn't believe the community so Jesus must come again. It's a terrible piece of reality in the story of glory. We don't believe one another and so stop the Resurrection's power from getting out into the world, and Jesus must come to show us how to confront one another with the truth. Do we look like the Risen Body of Christ?

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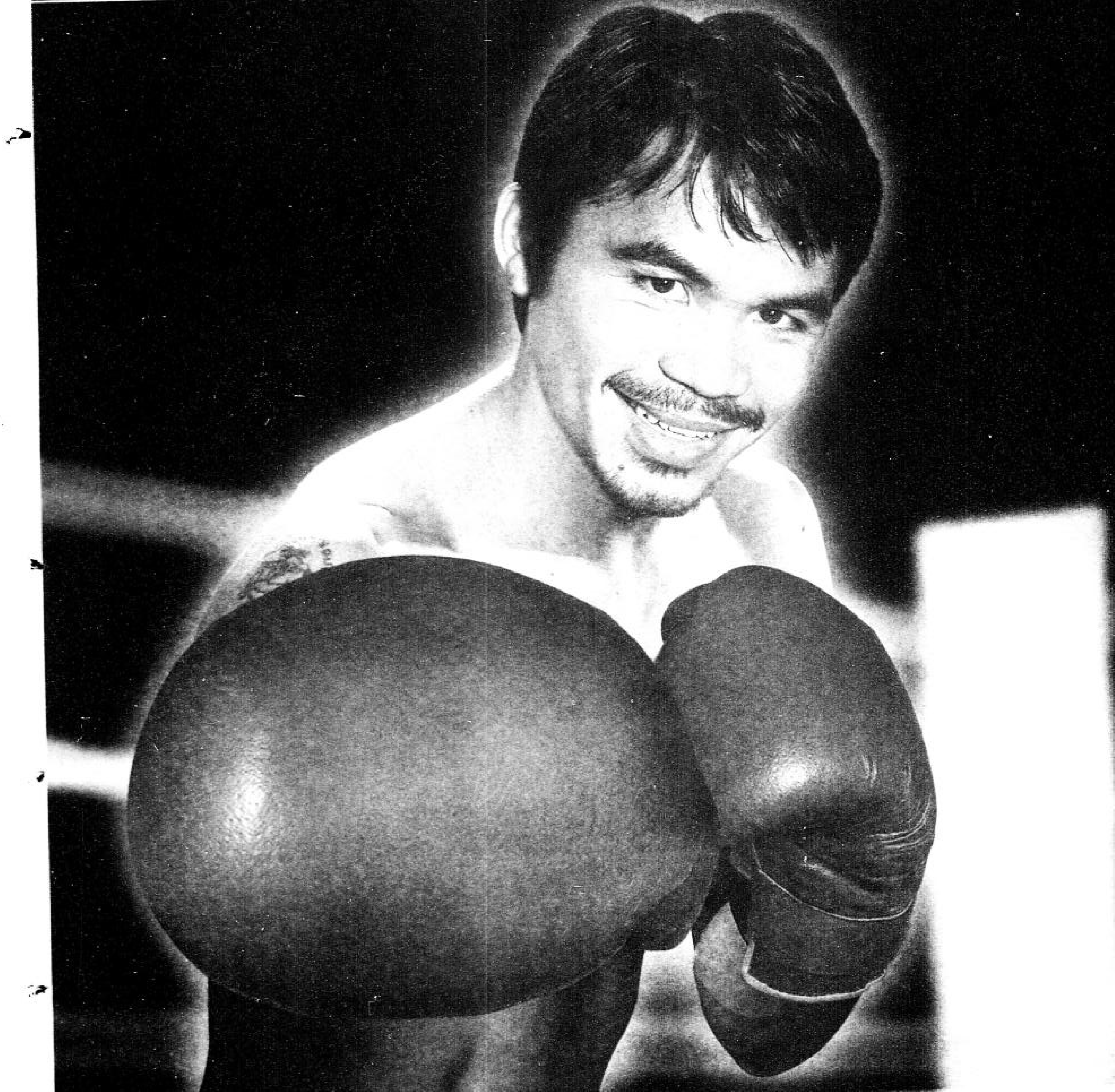

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GMA, military prepared to protect turf from Senate's 'rogue' probes

From page A1

by Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

Under EO 464, government officials are barred from appearing in congressional inquiries without specific consent from Ms Arroyo.

In its ruling on Thursday, the Supreme Court upheld the right of Congress to compel executive officials to testify in its inquiries in aid of legislation.

It also upheld the right of the president to invoke executive privilege on matters involving security of the State but the president should state the reasons why it is being invoked.

Finding the truth

Spurred by the decision, several senators said they intended to resume their inquiries into a host of scandals ranging from the "Hello Garci" wiretaps dealing with election fraud, the P728-million fertilizer fund scam and the allegedly overpriced P503-million NorthRail project.

Efforts by lawmakers to ferret out what they said was the truth behind the scandals, especially alleged poll cheating in 2004, were effectively blocked when Ms Arroyo laid down EO 464.

Executive privilege is a rule invoked by presidential assistants to refuse to answer questions posed in congressional hearings by claiming separation of powers.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution nowhere expressly mentions executive privilege. Presidents of the Philippines and in other countries, however, have long claimed that the constitutional principle of separation of powers implies that the executive branch has the privilege to resist certain encroachments by Congress and the judiciary, including some requests for information.

Lesson from Nixon

In the United States, the Richard Nixon administration invoked the principle at the height of the controversy over the Vietnam War and the landmark Watergate investigations in the 1970s. But Nixon's critics said it did so only to hide its wrongdoings and policy blunders.

Nixon later resigned in disgrace.

Don't use to bury truth

Bunye described the senators' threat to resume their inquiries as a proof of their "blood-thirsty attitude which is what pulls the nation down while the people are trying to push it up."

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the administration was prepared to face any Senate investigation "but the questions should be limited to the issues at hand and the inquiry made with mutual respect and that it should strictly be made in aid of legislation."

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said that while the high court recognized the President's right to invoke executive privilege, this right should not be wantonly invoked to bury the truth.

"The next battleground is in the use or abuse of executive privilege by government officials to hide the truth. There are fears that Malacañang would wantonly invoke executive privilege. They must be warned of the court's clear instructions," Golez said.

"It bears emphasis that executive privilege is not designed to enable presidents to hide things (or) to cover up wrongdoing," he added.

Need for decorum

Golez pointed out the Supreme Court said in its decision that it was "essential to limit to the President the power to invoke the privilege."

Administration lawmakers said that it should be the senators who should closely follow the tribunal ruling and "exercise fairness and observe decorum" in their inquiries since the court decision had laid down parameters on the holding of hearings.

Rep. Mauricio Domogan (Lakas, Baguio City), vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the court ruling was "not a license for senators to disregard time-honored decorum observed in legislative inquiries." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, PDI Research*

'Telenovelas have endings; why can't Congress probes?'

By Armand N. Nocum

"EVEN TELENOVELAS HAVE endings."

With that, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday scoffed at threats by the political opposition to resume its investigation into the scandals that have damaged public confidence in the Arroyo administration.

"They are insatiable," Gonzalez said, reacting to reports that senators and congressmen were poised to dig up government dirt anew after the Supreme Court ruled that portions of presidential Executive Order No. 464 were unconstitutional.

"They will never get satisfied. They will repeat this over and over again. Those who have been called will be called back again," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview.

GONZALEZ

Citing the "Hello Garci" issue, Gonzalez said: "How many months has this been set for hearing? Every time there is something new, they will reopen it. Where would this lead us? Is there no end to these things?"

Asked what advice he would give his former congressional colleagues, the former Iloilo congressman said: "Let us have sobriety here. I think there is a way to do these things with sobriety and probity, with less partisanship in our approach."

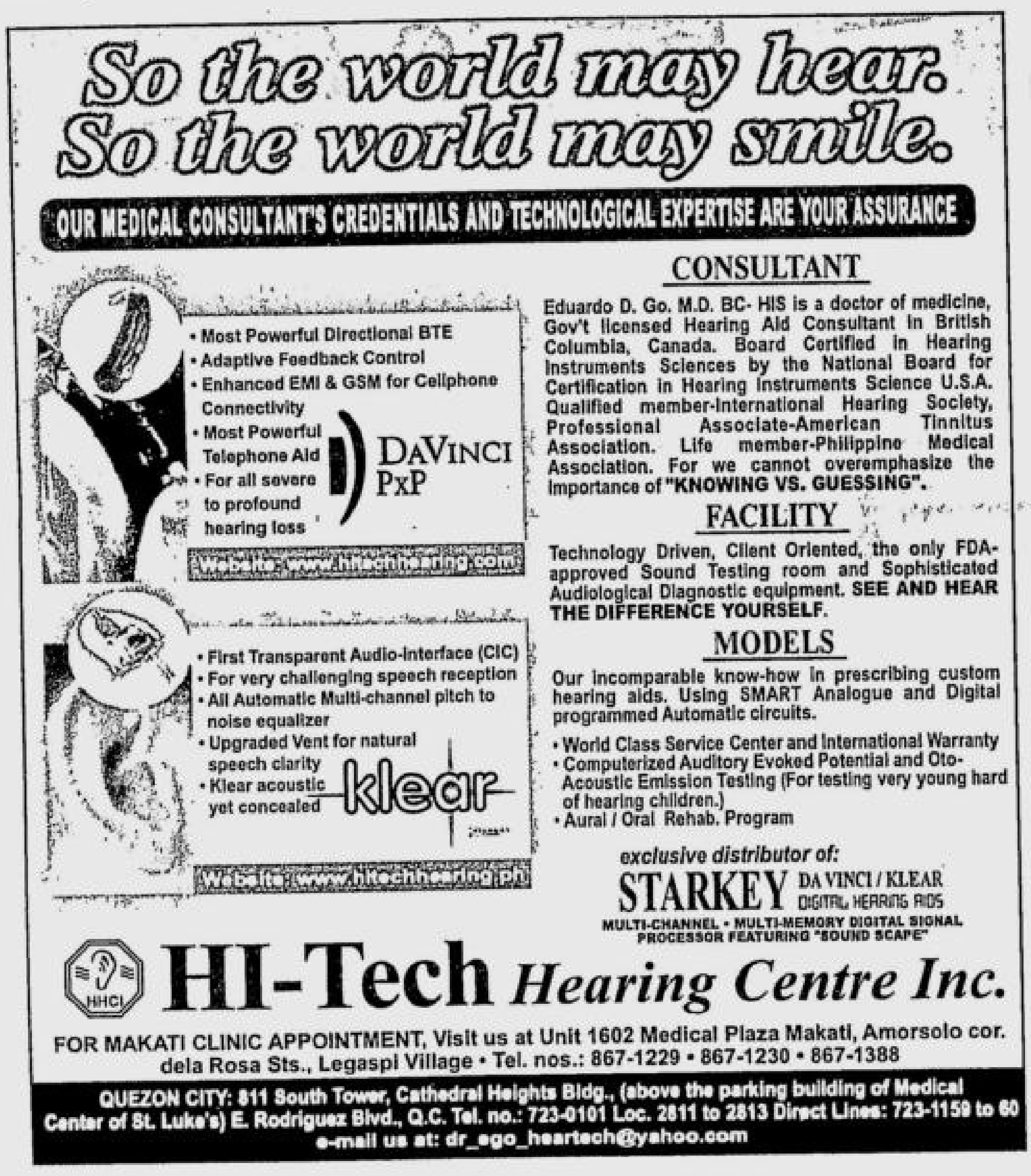
Golez advice ignored

Gonzalez said he would not heed Rep. Roilo Golez's advice to those who advised Ms Arroyo—a non-lawyer—to issue EO 464.

"Tell him: 'Thank you for his wrong advice," Gonzalez said, adding that he did not regret advising the President to issue EO 464 to stop the alleged harassment and humiliation of members of the Cabinet in congressional investigations.

"I was not the only one who gave that advice. That was the product of a collective decision by the Cabinet's national security cluster," he said.

Besides, he said that an analysis of the Supreme Court's decision would show that the court satisfied both the Palace and the petitioners, who included senators and congressmen.



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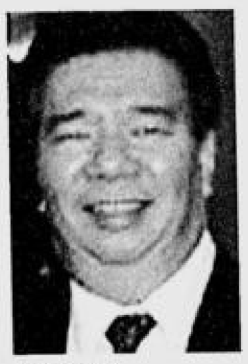


DRILON

REYES

LEGARDA

MERCADO

GUINGONA

ESTRADA

Erap: No apologies, they are forgiven

From page A1

Estrada's remarks came in the wake of Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias's apology for the role of church leaders in Edsa II. Tobias's unexpected words of contrition were made last Wednesday during Mass attended by the former President in celebration of his 69th birthday.

He said the Edsa II veterans who visited him in the years following his arrest and detention did not actually apologize. But he took their visits to mean that they were sorry for what transpired in the run-up to January 2001.

"No, they didn't apologize, but their visits showed [that]... Do you think they would come to see me if they still felt the same way as before," Estrada said referring to the time when these personalities wanted him out of Malacañang.

Reyes visits

In an interview with reporters in Malacañang, Reyes admitted to having visited the former President at the latter's Tanay rest house more than once, but denied ever apologizing for his actions during Edsa II.

Reyes was the Armed Forces chief of staff under Estrada and his defection was generally seen as the straw that broke the camel's back. It swung the balance in favor of the anti-Erap forces as Reyes brought with him the entire Armed Forces.

"I visited President Estrada a number of times in the past but I haven't visited him recently [not even] to take up the [political] crisis," he said.

Reyes said his visits were made over a year ago but refused to say why he had met with Estrada.

On EO 464

The former President said he usually discussed developments of national interest with Edsa II veterans. The last discussion was on Executive Order No. 464 and how he wanted it junked by the Supreme Court.

"I talked about it with Guingona," Estrada said.

"Guingona was the one who delivered the 'I Accuse' speech against me in the Senate," he said almost in jest, showing that he doesn't necessarily forget, though he has forgiven.

Estrada swore that he harbored no ill-will against any one.

Not against Mercado, then Estrada's defense secretary, who joined the "Estrada resign movement."

Not even Villar, then House Speaker and a political ally of Estrada's, who transmitted the impeachment complaint to the Senate. Tañada was an avid anti-Estrada congressman.

Cabinet members, too

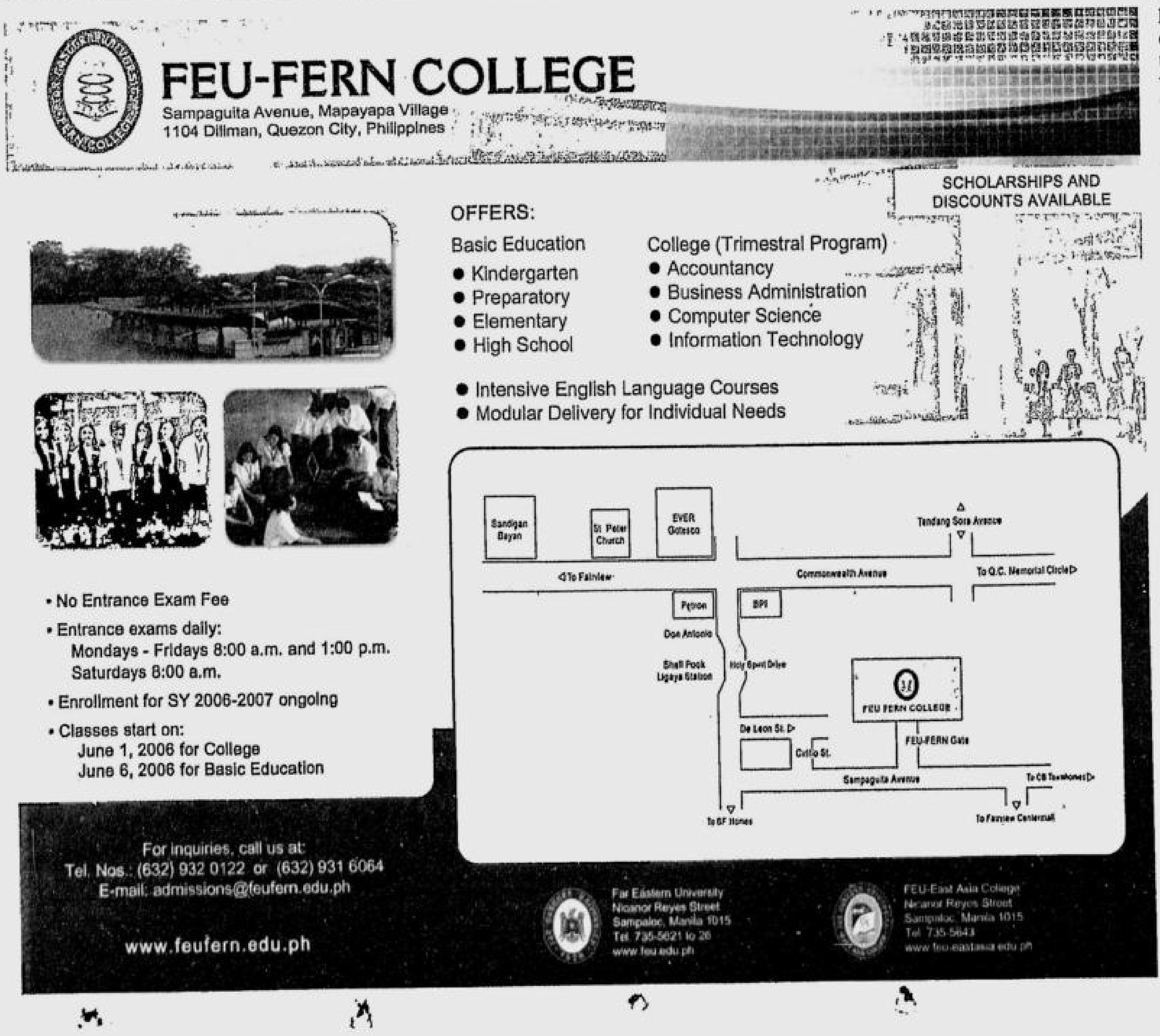
Current members of the Arroyo cabinet, chief of staff Michael Defensor (one of the complainants in the impeachment case against Estrada) and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno (also an interior secretary in the Estrada Cabinet) also visited Estrada in Tanay.

They did so in connection with the supposed reconciliation efforts of the Arroyo administration with the former President.

But Defensor said he saw nothing unusual in Reyes's meetings with Estrada.

"Why not? I also talk to him (Estrada) but it does not mean anything," said Defensor, who is Ms Arroyo's hand-picked emissary to the jailed President.

"I think the way they talk, everyone recognizes that the case must go on but their personal differences must be set aside. The process is already going on and they are not in intervening in the process anyway," he said.



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Lagman: House to fast-track repeal of death penalty law

By Philip C. Tubeza

LAGMAN

DESPITE VIGOROUS OPPOSITION from anticrime groups, Congress could pass the law repealing the death penalty as early as June, House Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman said yesterday.

Lagman, whose family has suffered two murders, said the House of Representatives could muster the votes to pass House Bill 4826, which President Macapagal-Arroyo certified as urgent last Tuesday.

"I think (the bill's approval) is a very immediate possibility," Lagman said in an interview. "If Congress wants to fast-track a bill, it can be a fast lane. If it wants to delay a measure, it can be a meandering river. I think this is a fast lane."

He said the bill has been placed on the calendar of business and could be sponsored on the floor and debated immediately after Congress returns from its Lenten recess in mid-May.

Lagman said he knew "the anger and pain" that families of victims of heinous crimes suffered since he himself lost two brothers to vicious killings.

"My family has been a victim of heinous crime not once, but twice, with the involuntary disappearance on May 11, 1977, of my brother, lawyer Hermon Lagman, a labor and human rights lawyer who must have been tortured to death during the Marcos dictatorship, and, 24 years later on Feb. 6, 2001, with the brutal assassination of another brother, Ka Popoy Lagman, an irrepressible and vigilant leader of the workingman," Lagman said.

Unwavering opposition

"I know the anger and pain that the families of victims of heinous crimes feel. I am not unaware of their grief and boundless heartache.... Yet, my family and I are unwavering in our opposition to capital punishment," he said.

Lagman said not all families of victims of heinous crimes believed that the only way "the perpetrators can atone for their wickedness is to pay for it with their lives."

Stating that justice must be "restorative and allow for the reformation of prisoners," Lagman added: "There can be no justice when virtually only the marginalized and disadvantaged are meted out death sentences. The viciousness experienced by my brothers in the hands of their killers will not be wiped away with the execution of their executioners. A grievous wrong cannot be righted by state-sanctioned murder."

He said that the majority of death-row inmates knew capital punishment existed yet they committed their crimes.

No deterrent

"Clearly, the death penalty has failed as a deterrent to crime nor is it the panacea to lawlessness. Rather, it perpetuates a culture of violence and continues to sanctify vengeance as virtue," Lagman said.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago also supported the call to abolish capital punishment.

"There is no injustice committed when a convict is sentenced to lifetime captivity, instead of death by lethal injection. The convict is still punished and justice is still served," Santiago said in a statement.

"A total of 123 countries, including the entire European Union, have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Does this mean their justice systems are inferior to ours because we subscribe to capital punishment and they don't?" he said.

"The more we get exposed to legalized murder, the more we lose respect for the sanctity and value of human life. And the more we accept violence as part of our culture," Santiago said.

Behave, Noli reminds OFWs in wake of Saudi case

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday reminded overseas Filipino workers to respect the laws of their host countries in order to protect their lives and jobs, as well as prevent diplomatic problems.

De Castro, the presidential adviser on OFWs, told the INQUIRER that the case of the seven murder suspects in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, should remind workers of the value of self-restraint and obedience to laws.

He urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to assist the 52 Filipinos rounded up by the Jeddah police last week in connection with the murder of three other OFWs.

Speaking in De Castro's *Para Sa Iyo Bayan* public service program on dzMM radio, DFA Director for Middle East and African Affairs Pete Chan said that the seven OFWs had admitted to involvement in the murder and that 10 more had been released from detention.

But Chan said more suspects were being arrested.

Chan said Saudi police had initially established that the dismembering of bodies believed to be those of the three missing OFWs was connected to the operation of the illegal numbers game *jueteng* in the Arab kingdom and the issue of fake phone cards.

He said the Philippine consulate in Jeddah had quoted the Saudi police as saying that those who admitted to the crime identified the victims as belonging to a rival group.

Chan said there was still no concrete proof that the dismembered bodies were those of the missing OFWs. One of the bodies had decomposed and was being subjected to DNA testing, he said.

"What happened to our compatriots in Jeddah is saddening," De Castro said in Filipino. "This only shows that gambling is already widespread. I even heard that there is also cockfighting there and Filipinos are the ones spreading it."

De Castro acknowledged it would be impossible for diplomatic missions to closely monitor all OFWs who resort to illegal activities.

De Castro asked the labor department to strictly screen Filipinos leaving for work abroad.

He said that OFWs must act like "little ambassadors," projecting the good values of Filipinos as a nation.

East Timor needs skilled Pinoy labor

EAST TIMOR, THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST country, needs more skilled overseas workers to develop its economy.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said this was the message conveyed to her by Arsenio Paixao Bano, East Timor's minister of labor and community reinsertion, who wrapped up a five-day visit to the Philippines last Friday.

Sto. Tomas said Bano and his delegation may need more Filipino workers in its oil and construction sectors.

According to Merliza Makinano, director of the DOLE's International Labor Affairs Service, there were about 730 Filipinos working in East Timor last year. One Filipino firm there employed about 150 East Timorese and 50 Filipinos, she added.

Sto. Tomas said she assured the East Timorese Philippine government's willingness, in association with the International Labor Organization, to assist East Timor in building up its capabilities in the area of overseas employment and welfare protection.

Bano's team studied the Philippine model of overseas workers management, particularly in deployment processing and welfare protection, according to Sto Tomas.

They also met with officials of such agencies as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, who gave them orientations on migration concerns. *Jerome Aning*

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Cardinal: Give Earth back its primal strength

From page A1

LYN RILLON

THE MOUNTAIN OF SHAME REMEMBERED. President Arroyo is given a tour by parish priest Fr. Ben Beltran of what was once the country's trash capital, Smokey Mountain in Tondo, after Ms Arroyo attended Mass said by Cardinal Rosales for the integrity of creation to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday.

GREEN CARDINAL: Staunch environmentalist Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales offers an apology to Mother Earth and a reprimand to humanity during his homily at the Smokey Mountain Mass.

fighting back, if only to protect them and their future," Rosales warned.

The Lasallian Institute for the Environment has pledged to plant one million trees all over the country by 2011 while the Manila Seedling Bank committed to give 10,000 saplings to those who want to plant trees.

This year's theme for Earth Day is "Mea Culpa, A Call to Repentance and Reflection," a takeoff on the disasters caused by environmental degradation.

A 150-member choir from evangelical and Catholic churches sang during the Mass, backing an interpretative dance performed by the youth of Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig (MAID).

Simultaneous Masses

About a hundred priests simultaneously celebrated Earth Day Masses in their parishes in the Manila archdiocese, according to Earth Day Network, lead coordinator of the activities.

The Cardinal, an anti-illegal logging stalwart when he was a bishop in Mindanao, blamed avarice for the destruction of the country's environment.

In a recent pastoral statement, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has asked the government to repeal the Mining Act of 1995 and revoke all mining permits.

Malacañang has endorsed a review of the mining law and declared a moratorium on the issuance of new mining permits in the Bicol region, where mine spills have caused fish kills and a drop in tourism.

A threatened future

"It is human greed that destroys the balance in the distribution, sharing and the use of the earth's resources," Rosales said. "It is human acquisitiveness and avarice that threaten the supply and availability of resources destined also for the future generations.

"To destroy and overuse the earth's supply today is like stealing from the mouths of your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They and their needs were also in the mind of God when He created this earth," he said.

Politics not far behind

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Rosales said the world's resources were enough to provide for humanity's needs but would never suffice to fill one man's greed.

With Ms Arroyo around, the subject of politics was not far behind.

Laban ng Masa convenor Randy David , one of those who read a prayer, almost walked out when he saw the President arrive at around 6 a.m.

He was prevailed upon to stay by Earth Day Network convenor Odette Alcantara.

"I did not expect her to be here because she would be seeing the poverty of her people and that would be a slap on the face if you were the President," said David, who was detained by police last month during an anti-Arroyo rally in Quezon City.

Forest in every barangay

In a press statement, former Sen. Loren Legarda urged Filipinos to help establish at least one forest park in each of the country's 41,943 barangays to protect the environment and solve the problems of pollution and recurring floods.

Legarda is chair of the Luntiang Pilipinas movement, which encourages volunteerism in the establishment of forest parks, especially in urban areas. It has planted over two million trees all over the country.

"Each of us must do our share if the badly damaged Philippine environment is to be rehabilitated," said Legarda.

Legarda said a recent study ranked the Philippines 126th among 145 countries on environmental sustainability owing to the unabated denudation of its forest cover, the destruction of coral reefs and the death of its many river systems.

"At the rate we are going in destroying the environment, the next generations would have nothing but concrete jungles," she said.

KMU blames capitalists

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno called on companies to comply with environmental regulations in order to protect jobs, as it recalled last week's closure of a Pasig City chocolate factory that lacked the required anti-pollution devices.

KMU spokesperson Prestoline Suyat said that many factory owners often neglected environmental compliance, affecting the welfare of workers and communities where the factories are located.

"Capitalists often scrimp on expenses for environmental compliance, workplace safety standards, (and) personal protective equipment, not to mention wages, to keep their profits up," he said.

"As a result, workers' security of tenure gets imperiled and they fall victim to their employers' negligence," he added.

A 2004 Philippine environment monitor showed that annual economic losses caused by water pollution were estimated at P67 billion while health costs of exposure to air pollution in major urban centers were estimated to be over P21 billion. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Jerome Aning*

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Guarding Gloria: Defensor . . .

From page A1

VISIBLY IRKED, President Arroyo still managed to carry on with her commencement address before the graduating class of the Cavite State University last Friday as police hustled out banner-bearing students protesting Cha-cha and demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster.

dent heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during her speech at the graduation ceremony of the Cavite State University.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the President thought little about the incident, claiming it was more of "a political rather than a security lapse" and that no charges would be filed against Maria Theresa Pangilinan.

In the middle of the President's speech, Pangilinan stood up and shouted "*Patalsikin si* (Oust) Gloria" while unfurling "No to Cha-Cha" banner.

"When I talked to the President, she said she was OK and she was not physically harmed. She said she was not blaming the PSG because she knows it was doing its best," said Defensor in an interview during a Mass attended by the President at Smokey Mountain in Manila.

But while the President wanted to get over the incident as soon as possible, Defensor said he met with the Presidential Security Group to review its advance security preparations to avoid a repeat of the incident.

"I think we need to strengthen our security preparations more to make sure that all of these are perfected. We want to check what the staff did on that day and determine what went wrong," said Defensor, who still could not believe how the student and four other guests were able to sneak in red protest banners, despite tight security in the area, hours before the President's arrival.

But while the President was willing to let the student off lightly, Defensor said blame for the incident should fall squarely on the officials of Cavite State University who had invited the President to the graduation.

"The President had been advised to turn down the school's invitation but she insisted on attending. I think this is really bad, especially if you invite the President and this thing happens. It would have been better not to invite the President if you are going to treat her like this," Defensor said.

Defensor was an activist during his college days but he did not look kindly on what Pangilinan did. "We did make protests in our days but we had more decorum then. There is a place for everything and I think the graduation ceremony is not one for protests. I felt that was done in poor taste."

He recalled Estrada presidential spokesperson Jerry Barican staging a similar protest when he draped a "No to Martial Law" banner during his graduation from the University of the Philippines. Former strongman Ferdinand Marcos was the guest.

"What Barican spoke out against was martial law. This is just Charter change—it's a different issue which could have been conducted in a different place and different time," Defensor said.

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First Pinoy space writers . . .

From page A1

have been jointly nominated for this year's Eugene M. Emme Astronomical Literature Award, considered the Oscars of astronautics literature.

The first Filipinos to vie for the prestigious "Emme," they were cited for their ground-breaking book "Heavens Fill With Commerce: A Brief History of the Communications Satellite Industry."

The book was published in the United States last year—a heavily illustrated, easy-reading chronicle of the industry since Sir Arthur Clarke's visionary writings in 1945 on satellite communications.

It covers all the major events that shaped the industry, including Sputnik and the road to commercialization and privatization that continues to this day.

The two nominees have over a decade of experience in reporting about the world satellite industry. They currently head the editorial team of Satnews Weekly Online Magazine (www.satnews.com).

Keep reaching for stars

The Quezon City-based Galace is the website's editorial director for the Asia-Pacific region while Labrador, a Filipino-American, is its managing editor working out of Sonoma, California.

In a press statement, Galace said their nomination was dedicated "'to Filipino astronomers, knowledge workers and scientists who labor heroically but quietly to advance science and technology."

"I ask the elite band of Filipino astronomers to keep reaching for the stars. This award is for them and for science in the Philippines," he said.

The "Emme" award is given out annually by the American Astronautical Society (AAS) and is named for Eugene M. Emme, the first official historian of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Created in 1982, the award recognizes outstanding books that serve public understanding about the impact of astronautics and its potential for the future.

Galace and Labrador's 216-page work was published by Satnews Publishers and was launched in Los Angeles. A Philippine book launch is being considered.

The Emme Award will be presented at the AAS annual meeting in Pasadena, California, in November.

SC barred PCGG from dealing with Marcoses, says Etta

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government (PCGG) should immediately stop negotiating with former First Lady Imelda Marcos on a compromise over the ill-gotten Marcos wealth, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said yesterday.

Rosales said the PCGG was barred from entering into any compromise with the Marcos family since the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that any settlement which would absolve the Marcoses was "illegal."

She said that she would file a resolution seeking a congressional investigation, adding she was prompted to do so after PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said a sharing deal with the Marcoses could be forged within the year.

"That's unconstitutional. He has no business entering into a compromise agreement. Any agreement is unlawful, especially if they deal with the sequestered ill-gotten wealth," Rosales said.

She noted that the PCGG was moving to reach a deal even as the Commission on Audit had yet to finish its special audit of the alleged use by the administration of ill-gotten Marcos wealth in the alleged fertilizer fund scam to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

She said that the Marcoses also owed the government at least P23 billion in unpaid taxes. "This is too much. This is a betrayal of the Filipino people," she said.

Rosales pointed out that the Supreme Court—in its decision voiding an attempt during the Ramos administration to reach a compromise with the Marcos family—had ruled that the PCGG had no power to bind the government to an agreement dismissing the cases against the Marcoses.

"The PCGG as the government prosecutor of ill-gotten wealth cases cannot guarantee the dismissal of all such criminal cases against the Marcoses pending in the courts, for said dismissal is not within its sole power and jurisdiction," the tribunal said in its 1997 decision.

It added that the PCGG also could not grant criminal and civil immunity or tax exemptions to the Marcoses. "This is a direct encroachment on judicial powers, particularly with regard to criminal jurisdiction."

The court said any compromise relating to civil liability arising from an offense "does not automatically terminate the criminal proceedings against or extinguish the criminal liability of the malefactor."

Rosales also warned against making any compromise on the Marcoses' tax liability, adding that the Marcos family should use its "legitimate wealth" to pay the government.

The high court in March 1999 ruled with finality that the Marcoses owed P23.47 billion in taxes on 30 parcels of land seized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for nonpayment of taxes.

TV reporter axed for leaking memos to columnist

By Nini Valera

A SENIOR CORRESPONDENT OF THE ABS-CBN television network has been fired for allegedly leaking internal and confidential office memorandums to columnist Emil Jurado of the Manila Standard Today newspaper.

Doris Bigornia confirmed in an interview with the INQUIRER that she was fired last Friday.

Bigornia said she went to Jurado for advice concerning her suspension for two days without pay for her alleged biased reporting on the tsunami scare in some coastal towns of Batangas. Jurado is also a lawyer and a close friend of her father's.

The tsunami scare was first reported by rival station GMA 7. Bigornia's report was aired live on ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" program on March 14.

"I wanted his [Jurado's] opinion if I made a mistake in my report. He asked me if I had a copy of the memo. I had the copy and gave it to him. He assured me that it was already a public document. I never asked him to write about my case. I merely sought his advice," Bigornia said.

On April 4, Jurado wrote in his column that Bigornia had shown him a copy of the memo on her suspension from Charie Villa, head of news gathering at ABS-CBN's news and current affairs section.

On April 7, Jurado wrote that Bigornia had received another memo from Villa asking her to "explain within 72 hours" why she should not be terminated for "loss of trust and confidence" for publicly disclosing confidential internal communication.

Last Friday, Bigornia received a memo from Villa terminating her services as senior correspondent of ABS-CBN.

Bigornia's troubles started when she was assigned to do a follow-up story on the tsunami scare.

Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division, said there were two sound bites in Bigornia's report that "crossed the line."

"There was a sound bite that mentioned [GMA 7 news anchor] Arnold Clavio and a sound bite about our plug, '*kapamilya kami*,'" Ressa said.

Ressa said it was "an ethical error, a grave error, the kind of reporting that our network shouldn't be doing."

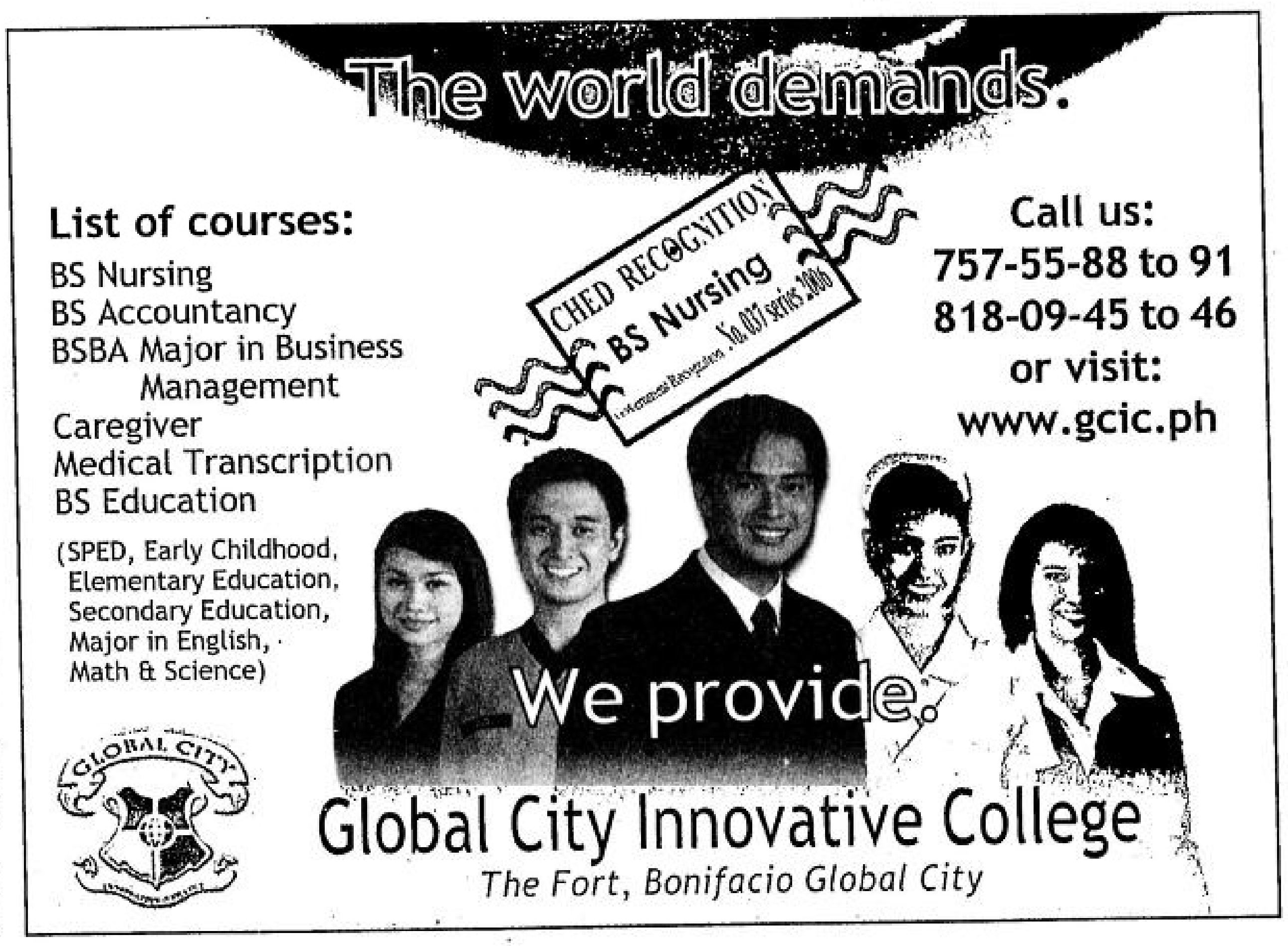
Villa said that Bigornia was sanctioned because "she violated our code of ethics."

Bigornia and desk editor Rodney Jaleco were both suspended over the tsunami scare report.

Bigornia insisted that she was not given due process when she was suspended.

Ressa explained that Bigornia's termination was not because of her tsunami story.

"The grounds of termination was the fact that she brought two confidential documents to a columnist and gave him the memos, brought it out, dragged it out. She should have come to us, appealed to us," she said.



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Transport group fires 1st salvo, seeks fare hike

A MAJOR PUBLIC UTILITY transport union yesterday fired the first salvo in what is likely to be a long hot summer of debate and street protests over transport fares amid runaway petroleum prices worldwide.

The Philippine Confederation of Transport Organizations-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations (PCTO-Acto) said in a statement it will ask regulators for a P1.50 fare increase for the first four kilometers of passenger jeepney routes.

Aside from rising petroleum prices, PCTO-Acto president Efren de Luna cited the rising cost of spare parts and basic commodities as the reasons for the rate hike petition. *(See related story on Page A26.)*

"Another blow to us is the almost 100-percent increase in the payment for services" at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, the Land Transportation Office, the local government units, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, De Luna said in Filipino.

These government agencies levy various fees and charges on transport operators for permits and licenses.

But De Luna said the jeepney operators would not ask for higher fares for travel beyond the 4-km initial charge.

PCTO-Acto has about 65,000 operators of public utility vehicles, mostly passenger jeepneys, in its organization, and is an influential force in the trade union movement along with its rival, Piston.

Even before the group could file its petition, however, the LTFRB had already made known its opposition to any fare increase.

LTFRB chair Ma. Elena Bautista recently warned public utility transport operators against unilaterally raising fares in response to the spike in oil prices.

She said her agency "will make sure no operator effects any fare increase without board approval."

"Any moves to ask for an increase will have to be thoroughly studied and subjected to the usual public hearing," she said.

But though no formal fare hike petitions have been filed, government regulators said they have received reports that some jeepney and bus operators had begun raising their fares unilaterally.

On Thursday, an association representing some of the country's largest bus firms asked the government to free the sector from fare controls to help it cope with a deregulated regime in the oil industry, a move that is considered a de facto fare hike.

Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (IMBOA), said the bus industry should be able to adjust fares at will to be able to respond to rapidly changing fuel prices. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Oil firms jack up prices by 50¢ a liter

By Abigail Ho

FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS month, oil companies increased gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter as international oil prices continued to escalate.

Chevron Phil. led the price adjustment, hiking pump prices at 12:01 a.m. yesterday. Oil refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. followed at 6 a.m. the same day.

New player Unioil Petroleum Phil. raised prices of the same products at 12:01 a.m. today. Flying V will follow at 12:01 a.m tomorrow and Total (Phil.) Corp. at 6 a.m.

The oil firms all cited the unabated increase in international oil prices as their reason for again raising prices.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude skyrocketed to a new historic high of $67 a barrel last Thursday, boosting the April average to $63.22 a barrel from $57.82 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also surged to an average of $79.32 a barrel in the April 1-20 period, from last month's $69.64 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel also reached a new all-time high of $92.13 a barrel last April 20, pushing up the average for the first 20 days of the month to $84.89 a barrel from the $77.99-a-barrel average posted in March.

Since the start of the year, oil firms have increased gasoline prices six times by a total of P3 a liter.

Diesel and kerosene prices have risen seven times by a total of P3.50 a liter.

These new price adjustments brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.79 and P39.26 a liter, diesel to between P32.79 and P34.42 a liter, and kerosene to between P35.60 and P38 a liter.

At the same time that they were raising fuel prices, Petron, Shell and Chevron all reduced liquefied petroleum gas prices by 56 centavos per kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax. Total lowered its LPG price at 6 a.m. today.

For this month alone, LPG prices went down by as much as P5.04 per kilogram, or P55.44 per 11kg cylinder.

This reflected the huge drop in international contract prices of LPG from $530 per metric ton (MT) in March to $428 per MT in April.

LPG now sells for between P408.87 and P473.84 per 11kg cylinder.

Oil prices hit all-time high

From page A1

thing down."

The continued gain in oil prices, and fears of inflation that it fueled, helped quiet Wall Street Friday, with the markets giving up early gains.

While there is still enough oil to go around, oil markets remain tight. With demand at 85 million barrels a day, the level of spare capacity—additional oil production that can be brought on the market quickly—is 1.5 million to 2 million barrels a day, or about 2 percent of total demand. In the 1980s, spare capacity was in the double digits and oil prices were in the low $20s.

Political tension

Analysts said speculative cash is fueling the records along with growing fears about the geopolitical situation.

"The recent jump in oil prices looks to be a speculative play rather than one grounded in fundamentals, as Chad and Venezuela joined Iran and Nigeria in driving fears of possible oil supply disruptions," said Richard Kelly, economist at TD Bank Financial Group.

But Kelly acknowledged that "oil prices are unlikely to moderate until these political tensions subside."

In this context, many oil analysts fear that the diplomatic standoff between Western powers and Iran over its nuclear program could spin out of control and adversely affect Iran's oil exports. Iran, the second-largest producer within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) after kingpin Saudi Arabia, produces about 3.4 million barrels a day.

At the same time, worries are growing over US gasoline supply shortages.

Mike Fitzpatrick at Fimat USA said that trading this week had been "somewhat frenetic as speculative interests tied on to the fear of 'extreme' US gasoline supply tightness this summer."

"Nothing's changed: the fundamental situation is tight and gasoline supply in the US is problematic," said Barclays Capital analyst Kevin Norrish.

US summer driving

The fall in supplies comes ahead of the US summer driving season, beginning in May, when US drivers take to the roads on vacation, pushing up demand for gasoline.

Adding to the market's nervousness, Hugo Chavez, the president of Venezuela, predicted on Thursday that oil prices would shoot to $100 a barrel if the United States invaded Iran. While that prospect remains distant, it is the sort of headline news that feeds the speculative frenzy.

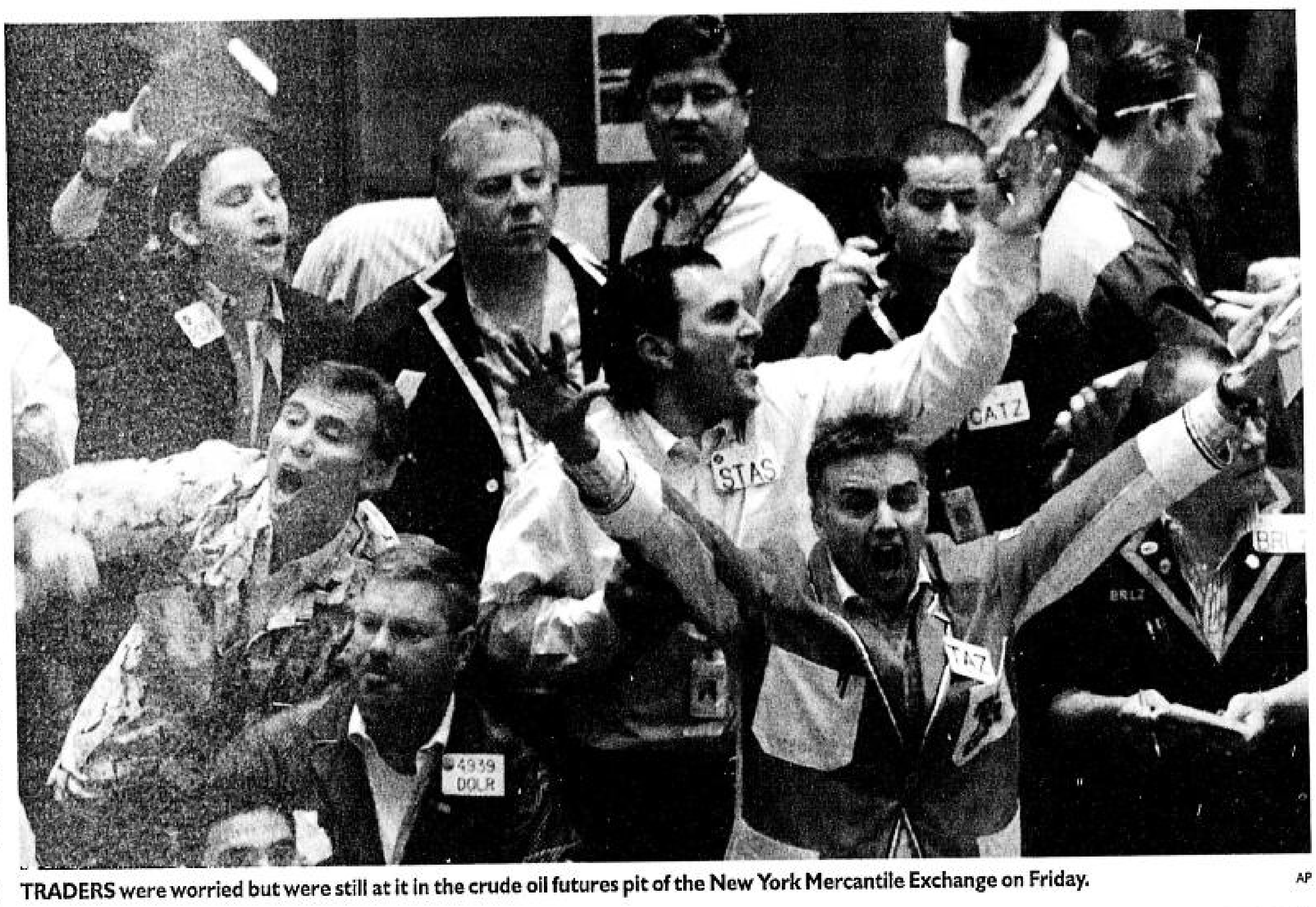
Traders are also concerned that some 20 percent of Nigerian crude output remains offline following recent rebel attacks on the country's energy installations in the Niger Delta. Nigeria is Africa's biggest crude producer.

"There is a high probability of further disruptions in Nigeria as we haven't seen the end of the attacks," said Tony Nunan, an energy risk manager for Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo.

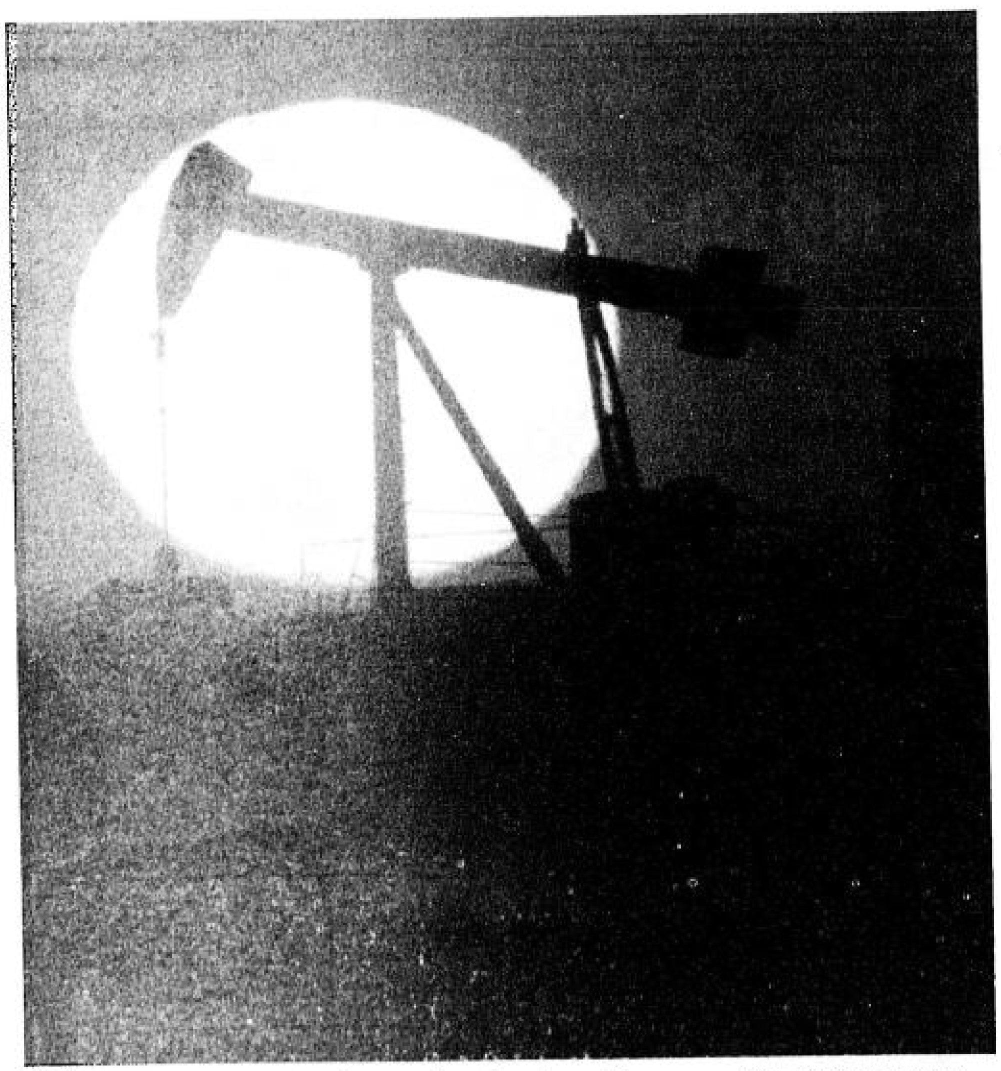
80% higher

"You have all the elements to push the price up: high demand, tight supplies, tight refining capacity, interruptions in supplies, geopolitical tensions, Iran, Nigeria, etc.," said Roger Diwan of PFC Energy, a consultancy in Washington.

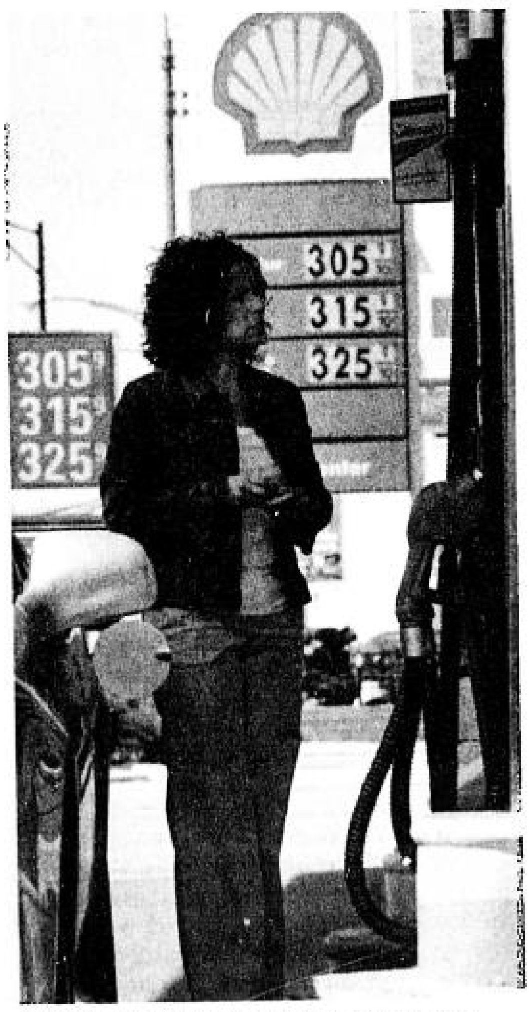
Oil prices are about 80 percent higher than in January 2005 and more than three times the level of four years ago, having been fueled also by strong demand from China and India, whose economies are booming. *New York Times, AFP*



TRADERS were worried but were still at it in the crude oil futures pit of the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday. AP



AN OIL-PUMPING UNIT is silhouetted against the setting sun near Virgil, Kansas, when the rising sun would have made a more appropriate metaphor. AP



HOW HIGH THE SKY? This woman's facial expression at a gas station in Chicago, Illinois, pretty much typifies the look of the consuming public as oil prices hit record highs. AFP

HYUNDAI POSTS STEADY INCREASE IN SALES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Hyundai continues to climb up the market ladder in the automobile industry based from the recent sales statement reported by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Phil., Inc. (CAMPI). Hyundai Asia Resources Inc., the official distributor of Hyundai cars in the country, garnered a Market Share of 6.1% for the first quarter of 2006, a remarkable improvement from the 2.87% Market Share from the same period last year.

CAMPI has recently posted the official sales report where Hyundai has achieved a total of 1,336 unit sales for the first quarter of the year, a 111% upsurge from the 632 units sold during the same period last year

As per category, Hyundai achieved a 6.9% Market Share to place 3rd in the Passenger Car segment. Meanwhile, Hyundai also improved its ranking in the Light Commercial Vehicles to 2nd place with a Segment Share of 11.3%.

The Euro-chic Hot-Hatch Getz has contributed the most number of sales among Hyundai's Passenger Cars. Since its local debut in April of last year, the Getz has consistently topped the sales for Hyundai. Just recently, the Getz has been awarded as the Sub-compact Car of the Year during the recent 2005-Car of the Year-Philippines Awards. Also on the same upper route in terms of sales are the Matrix MPV and the Accent sedan

In the Light Commercial Vehicle segment, the Starex and Tucson combined for an 11.3% Market Share pulling Hyundai in 2nd place. The Starex has still remained the top-selling Passenger Van in the market since 2004.

Relatively newcomer Tucson is in its 2nd year and is fast becoming one of the most sought-after Compact SUVs in the market because of its Value-For-Money packaging, let alone being the only Compact SUV that is available in Common Rail Diesel.

Hyundai's sales in the country remain bullish despite the alleged slush fund scandal engulfing Hyundai Motor Co.'s Chairman Chung Mong-Koo and his son Eui Sun. "In spite of the negative publicity surrounding Hyundai and Kia in the last two weeks, HARI remains confident that Hyundai's growth both locally and globally will continue on the upward slope. Naturally, we hope for the quick resolution of the case because it will ensure that our brand building and growth efforts will be sustained," stated Ms. Maria Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer.

Our first quarter sales reflect that our customers believe in our products. And HARI, together with Hyundai Motor Company, remains committed to providing our customers with innovative, world-class and value-for-money vehicles and giving them the highest quality service. Our growing customer-base here and around the world inspire us not to be sidetracked by any obstacle and to keep our focus towards achieving our goals," added Ms. Perez-Agudo.

ADVT

Buy your way out of pollution guilt

TO PEOPLE WHO TAKE THE THREAT of global warming personally, driving a car that spews heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere can be a guilt trip.

But to help atone for that environmental sin, some drivers are turning to groups on the Internet that offer pain-free ways to assuage their guilt while promoting clean energy.

It involves buying something known as a carbon offset: A relatively inexpensive way to stimulate the production of clean electricity. Just go to one of several carbon-offset websites, calculate the amount of carbon dioxide produced when you drive, fly or otherwise burn fossil fuels, and then buy an offset that pays for an equivalent amount of clean energy.

Of course, emissions could be reduced the old-fashioned way—by flying less, turning off the air-conditioning or buying a more fuel-efficient car. But that would probably require some sacrifice and perhaps even a change in lifestyle. Instead, carbon-offset programs allow individuals to skip the sacrifice and simply pay for the right to pollute.

"To some extent, it's a way for people to buy their way into heaven," said Chip Giller, who is president of Grist.org, an online environmental magazine. "On the other hand, this is such a big macro problem that this is one of the few things people can do to really make a difference."

Take Biff Cuthbert. Running an organic clam farm for a few years taught him all about being green. But when he recently needed a new vehicle to haul musical equipment for his folk band, as well as his two Akita dogs, Cuthbert ignored his environmental conscience and bought a cream-colored 2004 Land Rover, which gets 12 miles to the gallon.

Feeling a pang of conscience about driving such a gas-guzzler, Cuthbert paid $79.95 to Terrapass.com, a group that helps finance non-polluting solar, wind and methane-driven energy projects. In exchange, he got a sticker for his windshield verifying that he is offsetting some of the 16,766 pounds of carbon dioxide his Land Rover will emit this year.

"It rounds the edges off of the guilt a little bit, I guess," said Cuthbert, 62, of Guilford, Conn. "It's a little like having your cake and eating it too," Cuthbert said. *New York Times News Service*

Palace turns to Ping for help on nat'l ID

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

POLITICS INDEED MAKES STRANGE BEDfellows.

Malacañang is now asking one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's arch critics in the Senate, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, for help in convincing his colleagues in the chamber to support the national ID system.

"For once, we are in agreement with Senator Lacson when he talks about the national ID system and we hope he can drive the same sentiment through to his colleagues in the Senate, especially those who are gearing up for more inquiries in aid of libel and destabilization," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

No stonewalling

"The imperative of a single ID system is clear and compelling and we see no reason for any political leader to stonewall on this issue," Bunye added.

In a rare show of support, Lacson yesterday backed the administration's plan to implement a national ID system in order to simplify transactions with the government and stem crime and terrorism.

Lacson has supported a national ID system since his days as chief of the Philippine National Police during the Estrada administration.

Immediate implementation

Malacañang has ordered the immediate implementation of a national ID system after the Supreme Court on April 19 affirmed the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 420 which the President issued 14 months ago.

The court ruled that the EO did not encroach on the public's right to privacy because all the information required of them was available in the public domain.

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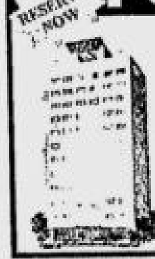

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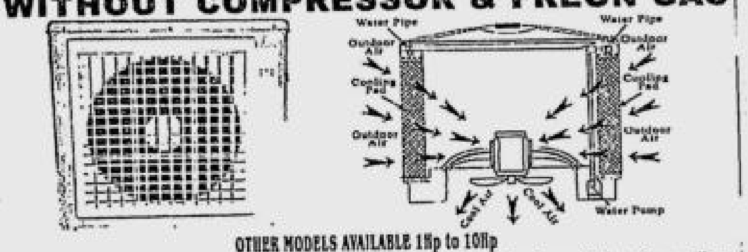

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Media hit for discrimination vs Muslims, minorities

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MANILA—MEDIA PRACTITIONERS, particularly those in the mainstream, are being accused of strong discrimination against Muslims, other minority groups and indigenous peoples.

"Media's reporting is really unfair, not just in content but as well in labeling," said Amina Rasul, the convenor and chair of Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) in an interview.

Rasul was one of the speakers during the launching of "Prejudice and Pride," a project aimed at improving Muslim-Christian relations in the country. It mainly tackled intolerance and discrimination in news media in the Philippines.

"If we can bring media to the side of those who will dismantle the architecture of prejudices, that is really a great big success for all of us," Rasul said.

She cited the perennial complaint of Muslim communities against the labeling of Muslim if the report was negative and where content was basically focused on negative news if stories emanated from Mindanao.

She also lamented that good news about Mindanao was hardly published, and if used, landed in the last portions of the news pages while conflict, crimes and other unsavory news were prominently displayed on the front pages.

"It's not that we don't want you to print bad stories, but if you take away the labeling and focus on the facts, that is already a major step forward," Rasul added.

Media as a powerful tool and source of discriminatory attitudes and biases is also instrumental for change and probably "a lead force for revolution against biases and discrimination," says Bart Guingona, the Pagbabago ng Pilipinas convenor and organizer of the project.

The strong biases of some groups against Muslims were apparent based on the results of a survey conducted on March 3 to 16, 2005.

The 2005 Philippine Human Development Report citing the Pulse Asia survey said "there was really an alarming picture of apparent discrimination against Muslims."

Of the 1,200 adult respondents, 55 percent thought that "Muslims are prone to run amok," while 47 percent thought Muslims were terrorists or extremists and 44 percent believed that Muslims harbored hatred toward non-Muslims."

Thus, some Muslims opt to "Christianize" their names to be acceptable in Christian-dominated communities.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan has expressed concern that the antiterror bill would heighten the exploitation and discrimination of Muslims by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"AFP has been continuously protested as the source of prejudices and biases and even the CHR condemns their gravest disrespect to human rights," Pangilinan said.

Defense Undersecretary Gen. Ernesto Carolina (ret.) admitted that in the early '70s "there was really lacking a wisdom, sensitivity to culture among soldiers," especially those deployed in Muslim areas.

"Soldiers and police should undergo sensitivity training. Media as well should be educated on Islam. As we all know one way to openness is really education," Pangilinan said, citing that even lawmakers also showed some discriminatory attitudes on some occasions.

Lead convenors of "Prejudice and Pride" came up with the following proposals to help make Philippine society "bias-free:

- TV or radio station breaks for Islamic prayers: If there's a daily "3 O'clock Habit" aired for Christians, why not also the salat for Muslims;
- Drama shows based on the Muslim way of life, or even comedy sketches derived from Muslim folklore.
- Commercial establishments joining in Muslim festivities: If malls hold "midnight madness" sales during Christmas, Easter or Valentine's Day, why not add Hariraya or Eid'l Adha Sales; and
- An RTW line especially targeting Muslim women. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

MILF dares security expert to prove claim

By Nash Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has dared a Singaporean security expert to prove his statements that the MILF continued to coddle members of the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF's chief peace negotiator, said Rohan Gunaratna, head of the political violence and terrorism center at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, "believes in something that is not necessarily true."

"It's more on speculation rather than a statement of facts. It's very easy to say that rebel organizations like us are protecting terrorists. But how to validate it is another thing," he said.

Gunaratna had said at the sidelines of the counterterror forum being held on Mactan Island in Cebu that the MILF continued to shelter one or two JI factions in Mindanao despite the peace negotiations with the government.

"The MILF has constantly lied that it is not harboring JI," Gunaratna said as quoted by a Reuters dispatch.

"If he points a finger to anybody, he should bear in mind that four of his fingers are also pointing at him. If he reports somebody's wrongdoing, it should be validated first," Iqbal said.

Iqbal said the MILF was not hiding anything and previous inspections of its camps by government and private peace monitors failed to prove the presence of terrorists there.

He said claims of terror links between the MILF and the JI had always been an irritant but said it would not hinder the peace process being brokered by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"Singapore has nothing to do with the talks. We don't need them. It's only a little country," Iqbal said.

He said the MILF, as a legitimate rebel organization, had not espoused terrorism to pursue its ideals.

"In fact, we agreed (with the government) to form the Adhoc Joint Action Group which, in a way, is also a campaign against terrorism. What more can we do to prove that we are serious in the campaign on terror?" he said.

Under the AHJAG concept, MILF fighters will help the government run after lawless elements in areas considered MILF territory.

The peace talks between the government and the MILF are expected to resume next month. Negotiators from both sides failed two weeks ago to iron out major differences on the issue of ancestral domain.

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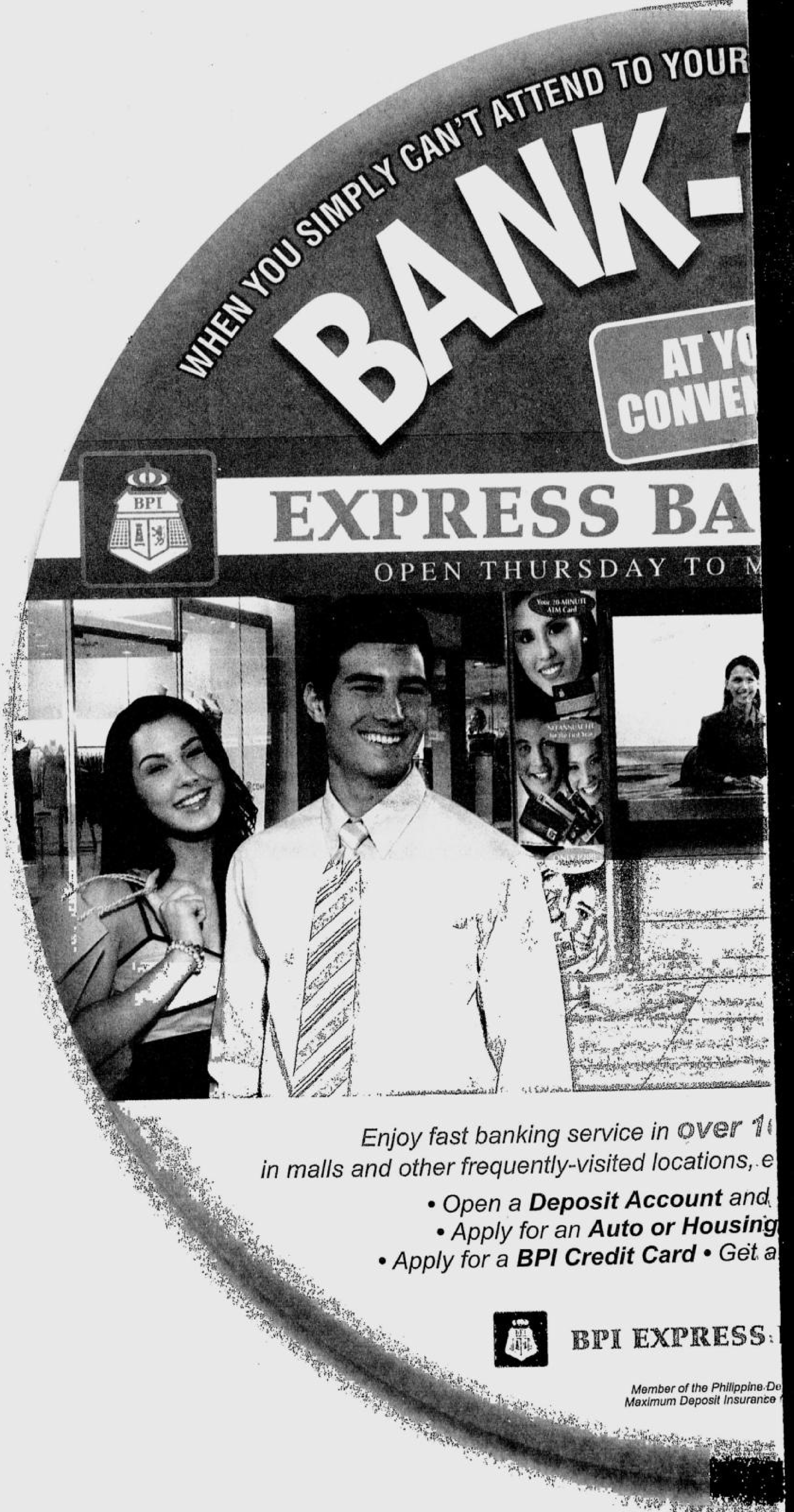

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'Ugly truths about Cha-cha concealed'

A FORMER MEMBER OF MALACAÑANG'S defunct Consultative Commission has assailed proponents of the administration's dual moves to amend the Constitution for concealing from the people the "ugly truths" about the parliamentary system.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Makati City last week, Rene B. Azurin accused "politicos who are pushing for Charter change" of wanting to amass power for themselves.

Azurin charged that the Cha-cha proponents were deliberately not telling the people that a parliamentary system would merge the President's executive powers and Congress' legislative powers under a single body: Parliament.

"They do not tell the people that this fusion of executive and legislative powers—the distinguishing feature of the parliamentary form—means that the same set of people will choose the programs of government, appropriate the funds for these programs and execute these programs," he said.

Azurin was one of seven ConCom members who dissented from the majority on Cha-cha.

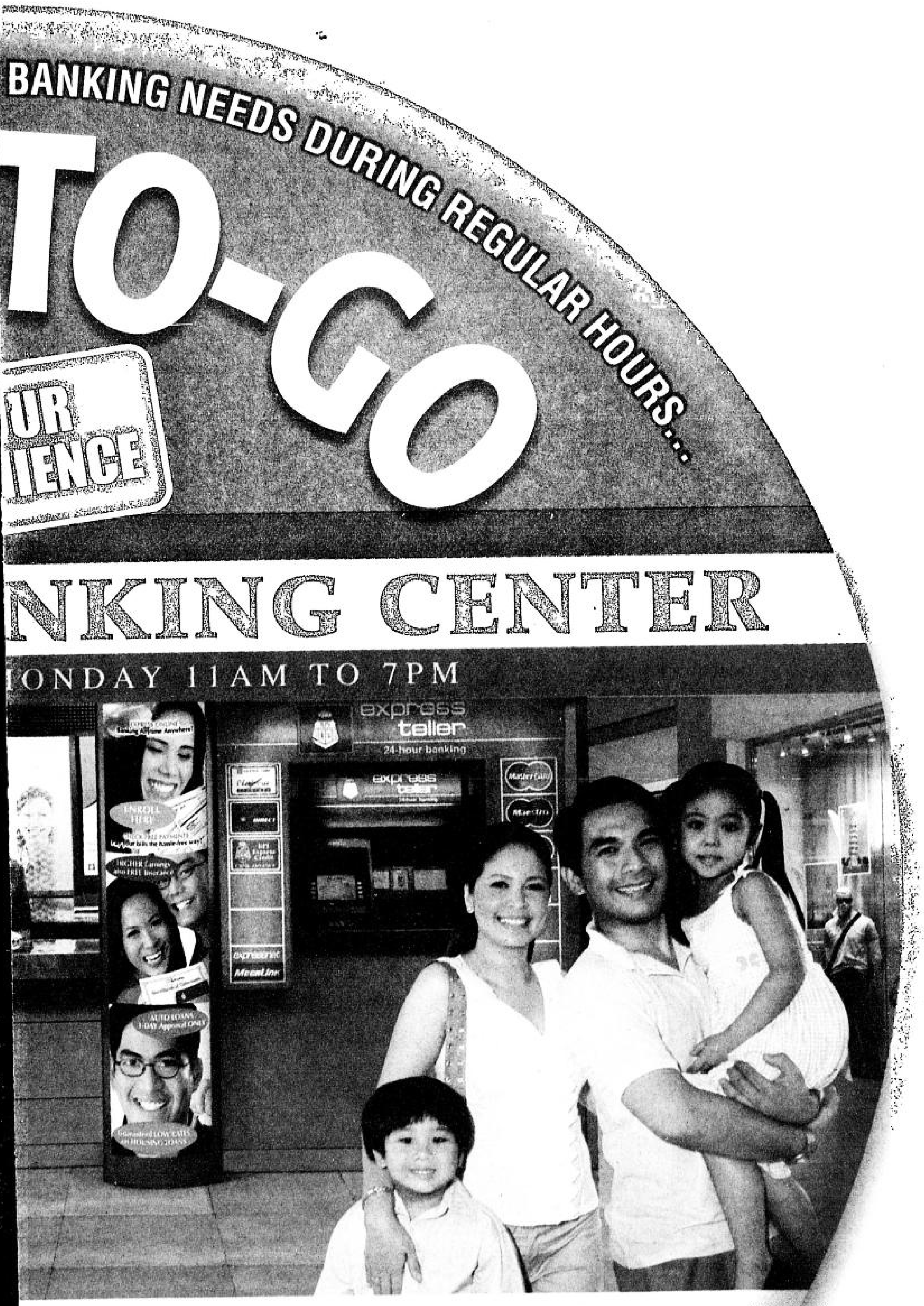
Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod has likened the 2007 elections to a referendum on Ms Arroyo, and has called on people to resist all attempts to scrap the balloting.

In a speech to the Ateneo Professional Schools in Makati City, Monsod said the 2007 elections "must push through because it will serve as a referendum on the President."

TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

AHOY THERE. President Macapagal-Arroyo takes time out from politics for a rare visit late last week to the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park in the Sulu Sea, a World Heritage Site since 1993. With the President are Tessa Prieto Valdes (left) and dive master Gigi Santos.

JERRY CARUAL/PCPO



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To join, mothers must take a 45 second video of their child (3 to 6 years old) together in a special bonding moment. The video can be shot using a camera phone and sent via MMS to 2955 for Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular subscribers. Video shot using a video camera can also be emailed to frisogrowvideo@yahoo.com.ph or send a tape or CD to Campaigns and Grey, 8/F Lepanto Bldg., Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Deadline for submission of videos is on May 20, 2006.

The videos sent in will be aired on the Lifestyle Network on July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7:30-8:00 p.m. Viewers can then vote for their favorite entries via text from June 4 to July 23, 2006. The video with the most number of votes will win a free trip for four to Disneyland, USA. Voters will also get a chance to win a camera phone by participating.

Just watch Frisogrow's "Shoot That Kid" ad in Lifestyle Channel, ETC, AXN and Cinema One.

You don't get a chance like this everyday. It has the makings of some really compelling television. Not to mention fun.

Call 637-4647 or text FRISOGROW to 2955 for details.

Frisogrow
4

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OPINION

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Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
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Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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They lost it

EDITORIAL

IN A DEMOCRACY, IT IS THE DUTY OF JUDGES TO make distinctions. Disputes are resolved, not through judicial fiat, but through an act of searching, sometimes even intricate, reasoning. Precisely because the judiciary is the **only** non-political branch of government, its decisions must win assent through the arguments used.

In the battle for public opinion, however, nuance is the first casualty. Consider the sunshiny interpretation being pushed by the Palace, all but welcoming the unanimous Supreme Court ruling striking down key provisions of the controversial Executive Order 464.

"It was not zero for the administration, it was a balanced decision," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday, two full days after the ruling came down.

A closer look at the actual ruling, however, and a review of the circumstances that led to the issuance of the order itself, will show that Gonzalez, and other Palace officials like Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, are engaged desperately, and all-too-transparently, in the contact sport of spin.

To be sure, the high court, through the decision written by Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, took special care to understand the true limits of the stakes involved. This sense of balance is apparent from the "ponencia's" first two sentences: "A transparent government is one of the hallmarks of a truly republican state. Even in the early history of republican thought, however, it has been recognized that the head of government may keep certain information confidential in pursuit of the public interest."

Thus is the issue joined. It is crucial to note that, in the end, the high court addressed itself to answer three, and only three, questions.

"The Court synthesizes the issues to be resolved as follows: 1. Whether EO 464 contravenes the power of inquiry vested in Congress; 2. Whether EO 464 violates the right of the people to information on matters of public concern; and 3. Whether respondents have committed grave abuse of discretion when they implemented EO 464 prior to its publication in a newspaper of general circulation."

The answers, in brief, are: Yes, "the people should have been apprised of this issuance before it was implemented." Yes, "any executive issuance tending to unduly limit disclosures of information in such investigations necessarily deprives the people of information." And yes, the most controversial part of the order "**severely** frustrates the power of inquiry of Congress [emphasis in the original] ."

Immediately after this statement comes a summation that anticipates the decision's dispositive portion: "In fine, Section 3 and Section 2(b) of EO 464 must be invalidated."

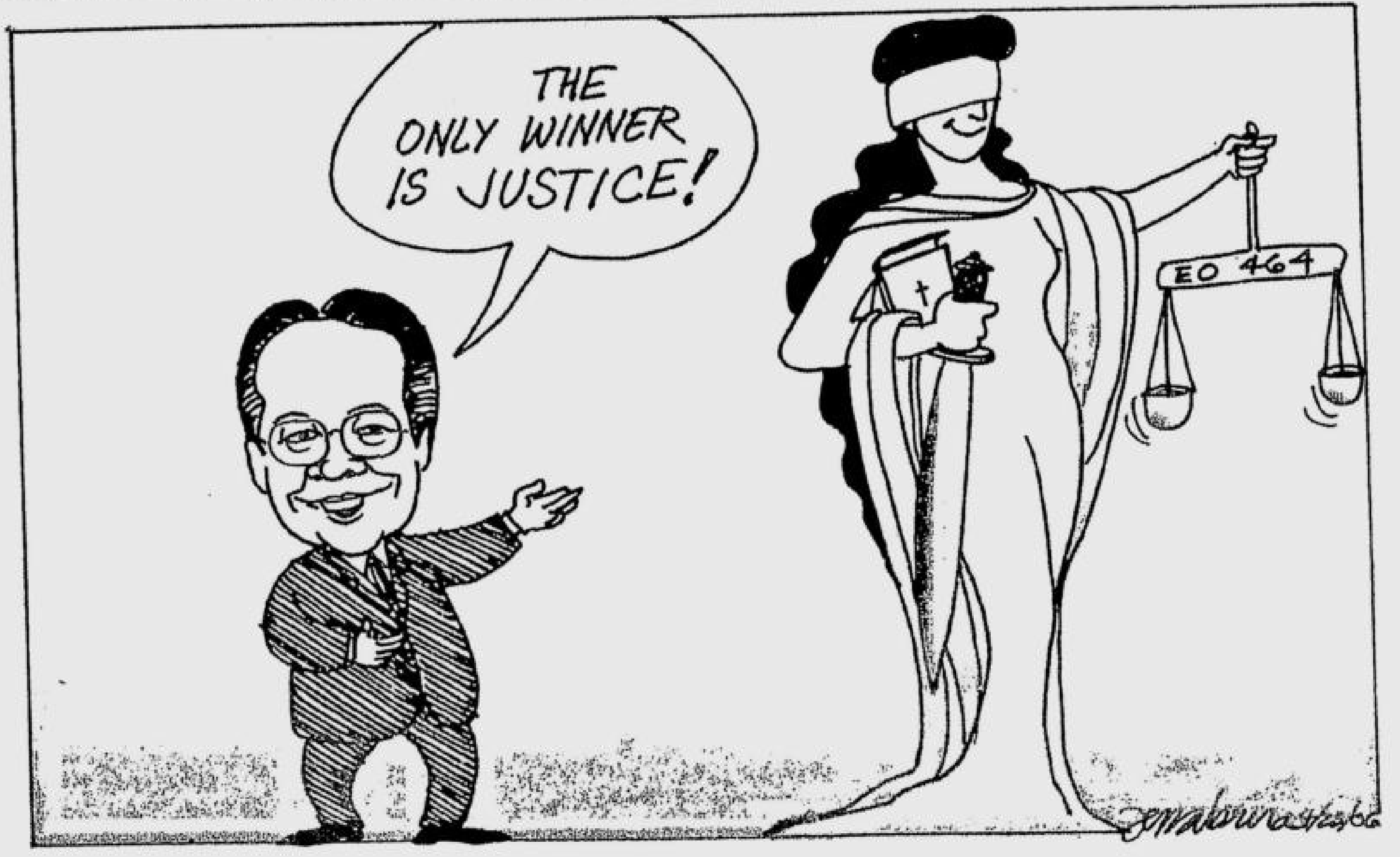
Section 3 regulates the appearance of public officials other than department secretaries before Congress; Section 2(b) enumerates who these officials are.

Because the well-written decision maintains its balancing act all throughout, a casual reader or a Palace apologist may think that Gonzalez is right; that it is a "balanced" decision, or a "win-win" solution, in the crass words of other commentators. It is certainly a well-tempered work, and gives us an example of how to deploy tact and reason to win the assent of conflicting parties.

But let us not be naive. The main reason for the EO was to prevent other officials from testifying in largely hostile congressional investigations. In fact, the EO describes itself as an order "ensuring observance of the principle of separation of powers, adherence to the rule on executive privilege and respect for the rights of public officials appearing in legislative inquiries in aid of legislation."

Now Section 3, one of the two key provisions declared unconstitutional, reads: "All public officials enumerated in Section 2(b) hereof shall secure prior consent of the President prior to appearing before either House of Congress to ensure the **observance of the principle of separation of powers, adherence to the rule on executive privilege and respect for the rights of public officials appearing in inquiries in aid of legislation.**"

In other words, the EO's very reason for being was invalidated. Win-win? Not at all. The Arroyo administration lost this one.


THE ONLY WINNER IS JUSTICE!
EO 464

Dual allegiance

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

YESTERDAY I WROTE ABOUT REPUBLIC ACT No. 9225, which allows natural-born Filipinos who have been naturalized in other countries to retain or reacquire their Philippine citizenship that they otherwise would have to forfeit as a result of their adoption of a foreign citizenship. Under the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003, such Filipinos will become dual citizens if their adopted countries will allow them to retain their naturalized citizenship while also enjoying Philippine citizenship.

Most countries require their naturalized citizens to declare in their oath of allegiance to their new state that they categorically and absolutely renounce their allegiance to any and all other states. There is also the doctrine of indelible allegiance, which prohibits a citizen from transferring his loyalty to another state and considers his naturalization there legally ineffective in his original state.

Strictly speaking, an individual covered by either of the above situations cannot be considered a dual citizen because there is no simultaneous application to him of different citizenship laws. It is only where the original state and the adopted state respectively acknowledge him as their citizen that he will acquire the legal status of a "dual citizen."

Under Com. Act No. 63, a Filipino woman who married a foreigner would lose her Philippine citizenship if she followed her husband's citizenship as required by the laws of his country. Our Constitution now provides, however, that a Filipino woman who marries a foreigner will retain her Philippine citizenship notwithstanding her acquisition of his citizenship by reason of their marriage. She would, therefore, be a dual citizen.

Dual citizenship may also occur involuntarily as in the case of the simultaneous application of the *jus soli* and the *jus sanguinis* to, say, a person born in the United States to Filipino parents. He would become a citizen of the United States because of his place of birth and also a citizen of the Philippines because of his parents' citizenship. (Rep. Act No. 9225 would not apply to him, however, because the second citizenship was not acquired by naturalization.)

Assuming that each of the separate states decides to consider the dual citizen as its own, he can thus have the privilege of enjoying the best of two worlds. The Fil-American dual citizen can avoid the rainy season here by enjoying spring in America and escaping the winter there by moving to the Philippines with its balmy weather during the Yuletide. And, of course, he will have both Philippine and American passports that he can choose from at his pleasure.

To be realistic, however, the dual citizen must take into account not only his rights but also his obligations under the laws of his separate countries. Each of them, to take but one example, has the inherent power to tax its citizens on their income earned in its territory and even abroad. Thus, a Filipino-Italian citizen must pay taxes to Italy for income earned there and also elsewhere even as he would be taxed too for income earned by him in the Philippines and also elsewhere.

The special advantage of the Fil-American citizen, however, is that he can vote against George W. Bush and also against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, both as a matter of right and patriotic duty.

I do not share the cloying sentimentality of Congress in allowing Filipinos to re-acquire or retain their natural-born citizenship after purposely and formally abandoning it. What is worse is that we generously permit them at the same time to continue their allegiance to their adopted foreign country and thus dilute their loyalty to their forsaken but forgiving Philippines.

In my *ponencia* of Frivaldo vs. Commission on Elections, 174 SCRA 245, I said:

"It is true as the petitioner points out that the status of the natural-born citizen is favored by the Constitution and our laws, which is all the more reason why it should be treasured like a pearl of great price. But once it is surrendered or renounced, the gift is gone and cannot be lightly restored. This country of ours, for all its difficulties and limitations, is like a jealous and possessive mother. Once rejected, it is not quick to welcome back with eager arms its prodigal and repentant children. The returning renegade must show, by an express and unequivocal act, the renewal of his loyalty and love."

And I repeat my dissent in Aznar vs. Commission on Elections, 186 SCRA 703, as follows:

"When a person rejects and divorces his wife to enter into a second marriage, he cannot say he still loves her despite his desertion. The undeniable fact is that he has left her for another woman to whom he has totally and solemnly transferred his troth. It does him no credit when he protests he married a second time simply for material convenience and that his heart still belongs to the wife he has abandoned. At worse, it would reveal his sordid and deceitful character."

So criticize me for being cynical and narrow-minded. It's only that in my view, dual citizenship necessarily imports dual allegiance, which the Constitution considers inimical to the national interest.

Reach out

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MAN WHO lent P50,000 to a friend who wanted to undergo plastic surgery. Today, the man's big problem is that he can't collect on the loan because he can't recognize his friend anymore!

* * *

After the Resurrection, the big problem of the disciples is that they could not recognize the Lord, not right away, anyway. In today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-31) He had to show the nail marks on His hands and on His side to make the disciples, especially Thomas, believe. The Lord took the pain of revealing Himself to them in very concrete ways to help them understand and believe. Such is our God, ever reaching out to us, ever going out of His way, to assure us of His presence and His love.

* * *

It is better to believe that you are loved than to believe that you are not loved. There is a "doubting Thomas" in each and everyone of us. And, there will always be people in our lives, who—no matter what you do for them—will always be insecure of our love. Are you a "doubting Thomas"? Do you always need to be assured of love? Please don't spend your whole lifetime doubting and seeking assurance. Why don't you do some believing and some assuring instead for a change? Reach out, like the Risen Lord, and give life.

* * *

Instead of getting engrossed in your personal doubts and endless introspection, why don't you get involved in the mission outside you—the mission that awaits you? "As the Father has sent you, so I send you." Many people still have not heard the Good News of Christ's Resurrection. A confrere, Fr. Rod de la Rosa, SVD notes that the Bible has been translated into 2,300 languages only; there are in this world 6,700 languages. He further notes that the cross, the symbol of Christian faith, is known only by 54 percent of the world's population while the five rings, the symbol of the Olympics, is known and recognized by 92 percent of the world's population. And the McDonald's sign of very recent times is known and recognized by 88 percent of the world's population. Think about it! What have you done to spread His message of hope and love?

* * *

It is interesting to note that the disciples had their doors locked "for fear of the Jews." I wonder how many of us constantly live in fear, for "fear of the news." I wonder how people, those who lie every day on national news, feel, or if they feel at all? How could some people who are in the news every day continue to lie, and in fact, believe, that they can get away with their lies? Just wondering.

* * *

"My Lord and my God!" Who, what is your Lord and God in this life? Is there something or someone greater than you who moves you and drives you? Are you a slave to your personal desires and to material things? Is the person you are serving worth all the efforts?

* * *

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Sinners that we are, it is our consolation and hope that we have a God who is understanding and merciful. Yes, whoever we are, whatever we have been, our Lord's constant and unconditional greeting is: "Peace be with you."

* * *

Inviting you to join our bi-annual "Walk with God" from Urdaneta City to Manaoag, Pangasinan on May 6. We start at 6 a.m. in front of the Urdaneta Cathedral and have our Mass at the Manaoag Shrine by 11 a.m. The three-hour walk is a little sacrifice we offer to thank the Lord and Mama Mary for blessings received. We also make the sacrifice to ask their continuous blessings for us. Join us, especially to pray for true peace and righteousness in our land.

* * *

Once a year, the *Bangar* tree at the back of our seminary makes its presence felt. The summer sun makes this tree bloom with such vivid red flowers, such that it becomes a beautiful sight. But the foul odor that emanates from this tree is something that can be smelled from afar. I can't help but remember what Papa and Mama told us when we were children: What is important in a person is not so much his or her external beauty, but the sweetness of his or her character.

* * *

A text message worth pondering on: As we follow Him, we discover that we lose to gain; surrender to win; give to receive; die to live.

* * *

For your prayer request just type F J REQ <message> then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun, 3940 for Smart. To know more about Fr. Jerry's text service, type FR. JERRY then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun and 3940 for Smart.

* * *

Inviting you to attend a half-day seminar on Understanding Behavioral Problems in the Aged "*Ano ang dapat mong gawin?*" This will be held on April 29, 2006, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 373-2262 or 0917 4167849.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, instead of doubting and living in fear help me to reach out and care. Amen.

The Mayuga report and 'Spy Wednesday'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACT-FINDING reports ever released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines is what will go down in history as the "Mayuga Report" on the 2004 presidential elections. It is interesting for a number of reasons.

Two months after the "Hello Garci" tapes surfaced in June 2005, three senior generals were accused of rigging the polls in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo. One other general reportedly refused to cooperate in this effort—for which reason he was relieved of his command and banished to the Philippine Military Academy. The generals were: Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., then the AFP deputy chief of staff for operations (J-3); Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, then commander of the 1st Infantry Division; Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, SouthCom chief; and Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade in Marawi City. Gudani would later be court-martialed for disobeying specific instructions from the chain of command. The instructions prohibited him from testifying before a Senate hearing on election-related irregularities.

To look into the accusations, then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu created in July 2005 a fact-finding board of officers chaired by the AFP inspector general, Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga. The other members were Air Force Maj. Gen. Romeo Alamillo, Army Maj. Gen. Raul Relano, Navy Commodore Emilio Marayag Jr. and Col. Caridad Aguilar of the Judge Advocate General Service.

In October 2005, after interviewing some 70 witnesses, the board finished its work. However, it did not submit its findings until January the following year. In the meantime, Mayuga was appointed Navy chief on Dec. 8 after a snafu which raised a lot of eyebrows from the public. On the day Mayuga was originally scheduled to take over as Flag Officer in Command (FOIC), with formal invitations already issued, the turnover was abruptly cancelled only to be re-scheduled for another day. The explanation from the Palace for the unusual turn of events was that the President was still studying the matter.

From the AFP chief of staff, the Mayuga Report went to the secretary of national defense; on April 5, 2006, some six months later, it landed in Malacañang. Last Wednesday, April 12, on the eve of the most solemn celebrations of the Church—Holy Thursday and Good Friday—Admiral Mayuga released a summary of the findings of his board. The INQUIRER headline of Holy Thursday said it all: "AFP clears four generals." Not having seen the contents of the report, I cannot question its findings. In fact, it is possible that not many people have seen the report and it must be one of the most closely-guarded documents in the history of our armed forces.

The AFP says that the report contains classified information with national security implications and, therefore, it cannot be released to the public. There is an old saying that "patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels." In this case, "national security" appears to be the last refuge of the high command. But, perhaps, the AFP officers were just following the script or guidelines laid down by their political handlers.

Now for some interesting notes.

- As I mentioned earlier, Mayuga released a summary of his report on Spy Wednesday over government television with a friendly newscaster to hold his hand along the way. *Sa bahay pa ng* FOIC *ginawa*. (The release of the summary was even broadcast from the FOIC residence at Fort Bonifacio.) No hostile reporters were around to ask all kinds of nasty questions. No copies of his summary were made available to the media. Such unusual security arrangements for a document only fuel greater public suspicion and diminish the credibility of the message and its messengers.

Incidentally, Spy Wednesday is how the Wednesday of Holy Week is called—just like Holy Thursday or Good Friday. The designation originated in Ireland and later spread to the United States. The allusion seems to refer to Judas Iscariot as a "spy." It was on Spy Wednesday that Judas went to the chief priests and said "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you? They paid him 30 pieces of silver and from that time on, he looked for an opportunity to hand him over." (Matthew 26:14-25).

- AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was quoted as saying that "those who refuse to believe the report will never believe it no matter what we say." He forgets that there are many who want to believe the AFP, but circumstances make it virtually impossible to accept everything that emanates from the organization. Transparency and accountability are the issues that face the AFP. Transparency and accountability are what we expect from our leaders, political as well as military.
- A few days ago, I dropped by the AFP inspector general's office at Camp Aguinaldo on my way to hit a few golf balls. I asked to see the inspector general, Rear Adm. Rufino S. Lopez Jr. But apparently all the officers were up in Baguio for the annual Inspector General's Conference. Only a probationary second lieutenant was around. I then asked the senior non-commissioned officer if I could have a look at the Mayuga Report. Very politely but firmly, he replied that it was not possible to entertain my request. I liked the way this master sergeant handled himself in a delicate situation. It goes to show how dedicated and disciplined our soldiers are. We have every reason to be proud of our men in uniform.

That bogus doctor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A LITTLE ITEM ON THE FRONT-PAGE "EAR" OF yesterday's INQUIRER was about a 76-year-old driver in Miami who posed as a doctor and went door-to-door offering "free" breast exams to women.

The man's cover was blown when one woman's suspicions were raised after he asked her to remove all her clothes and "began conducting a purported genital exam" without even donning surgical gloves (or probably washing his hands). The suspect was arrested in another woman's home after he fled his first victim's home.

What I found most remarkable was not that a man would go to all the trouble of impersonating a doctor just to cop a feel (or feels)—any inventory of sexual crimes would reveal that men could be surprisingly creative when it comes to satisfying their urges—but that women would be so willing to strip and subject themselves to the man's ministrations simply because he offered a "free" medical service.

The women should have known that doctors no longer make house calls, to begin with, or that hospitals rarely offer free services. Besides, a woman is fully capable of performing a manual breast exam on herself, although authorities do recommend that a woman over the age of 30 go for a "clinical" breast exam—palpation by a trained diagnostician preferably with a mammogram—at least once a year.

Then again it might not be such a major mystery why the women acceded so readily to the bogus doctor's offer. The white-haired driver walked around with a black bag, which could easily be mistaken for a doctor's kit. And ordinary women, as well as men, are so often willing to surrender their skepticism, doubts, unease and even free will in the face of medical authority.

* * *

IN HER brilliant book "Woman: An Intimate Geography," Natalie Angier traces the reasons hysterectomies—the surgical removal of the uterus—have become so common and routine "like a root canal or the removal of cataracts" in the United States. Every year, says Angier, at least 560,000 women in that country are hysterectomized, or to put it another way, "every minute of every hour of every day, a woman has her uterus scooped out."

The statistics on American women and hysterectomies is particularly alarming given that the "routine" procedure is done so much less frequently in Europe and the developing world.

One reason for this, as suggested to Angier by the president of the Hysterectomy Education Resource Services or HERS, is that women in Europe don't visit a doctor, or more specifically an obstetrician/gynecologist, quite as often as American women do.

"In truth, any time a woman visits a doctor she risks intervention," writes Angier. The scenario she paints is that of doctors who, in the absence of anything overtly wrong with a woman, begin to search for things that could go wrong, including the pesky fibroids that may or may not be malignant, may or may not cause problems down the line, and may or may not grow back.

Every time a doctor tells a woman he has found "something" that could cause problems, he plants the seed of fear and doubt in the woman. And if a hysterectomy is one option, or the only option, offered, a woman might be convinced to give it up. Especially vulnerable are women nearing menopause or who claim to have achieved their "fertility goal," that is, the number of children they ever wanted to have. If they no longer need it, why keep it?

* * *

BUT despite the many advances made in the medical field, the uterus, says Angier, is still "terra incognita." It performs so many other functions, aside from housing and feeding a fetus, that have yet to be recognized or tracked to a woman's libido or sexual pleasure or overall health.

For instance, studies have found the uterus producing "opiates, chemicals, hormones and hormone precursors" that actually dull pain or flood the brain with "feel-good" sensations, and may even orchestrate vital bodily functions, especially around the time of ovulation, conception and pregnancy.

For. this reason, Angier counsels "vigilance against removing the uterus in all but the most extreme circumstances."

And even when intervention is called for, as in the removal of a pesky fibroid, a hysterectomy may not always be the first or only option available. In many cases, writes Angier, fibroids that give a woman difficulty can be removed "hysteroscopically," that is, "through a tube like a periscope that is threaded up the vagina and into the uterus," with the doctor chipping away at the tumors.

The procedure cannot even be counted as true surgery and may even be performed in a clinic or doctor's office. And the reason so few women hear about it, Angier speculates, is that "it requires a skillfulness not all gynecologists command."

* * *

ANGIER'S advice to women: "If your doctor has no experience with hysteroscopic myomectomies, find one who does; the procedure is the best first-line attack against symptomatic fibroids."

A mantra among health advocates and even the health community is "informed choice," that is, if people were only given all the information they need, they would make intelligent, healthy and beneficial choices for themselves. The trouble with trusting in this equation is that information is so rarely available to ordinary men and women; and health authorities, like doctors or nurses, who have an obligation to provide all the available and accurate information that patients need, are so often overworked, impatient or arrogant to answer questions or think outside the box.

The image of the all-knowing, all-powerful doctor—one the medical profession has been loathe to give up—is the reason the women in Florida surrendered their common sense and allowed a white-haired driver to fondle their privates.

Institutions in the age of complexity

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NOT TOO LONG AGO, IT WAS TYPICAL FOR FILipinos to work, start a family, and die in the same town where they were born. Today, our people live and work in 192 countries in the world. They are exposed to a diversity of social systems and cultures. They are sources of new expectations. This global dispersal has taken place only in the span of three decades. It is unprecedented in its scale.

Our national crisis stems largely from our inability to recognize this growing complexity in our affairs. We tend to view this crisis as a crisis of values, rather than a crisis of systems. In our quest for solutions, we pin our hopes in the revival of personal integrity, and seldom in the formation of appropriate institutions. Ours are the instincts of a simple society lost in the modern world.

Sociology—the study of societies—was born in the West in a time of such growing complexity. Then as now, its basic aim was to understand what happens to societies as they face an increasingly complex environment. The early sociologists discovered that societies that sprang highly-differentiated internal systems tended to handle complexity better. The key is functional differentiation. Where traditional societies anchor social unity on similarity of values and beliefs, modern societies secure social cohesion through a division of labor based on differentiated functions.

Our inability as a people to become modern is visible in almost every sphere of our national life. In modern democracies, for example, politics is the domain of political parties offering alternative solutions to society's problems. Political debates revolve around ideology and programs of government. In the Philippines, politics remains the vocation of political clans and celebrity politicians. Political debate revolves around personalities and vested interests. The family is the hub that connects almost every societal function, be it politics, business, or religion.

The irony is that our system of government is probably one of the most modern in the world. Our Constitution is modeled after the basic law of modern liberal democracies. Individual liberty is enshrined in a Bill of Rights. There is clear separation of governmental powers. A system of checks and balances is built into the whole political structure. Constitutional offices, assured of relative autonomy from politics, make up the core of the state administration. A system for resolving political conflicts is carefully laid out.

Yet, despite all these constitutional safeguards, we have gone through one political upheaval after another, unable to settle conflicts in an institutional way. An era of dictatorship was inaugurated in 1972. A popular uprising ousted the incumbent government both in 1986 and in 2001. Today we find ourselves locked in a political stalemate because of unresolved doubts about the integrity of the 2004 elections. Our institutions do not appear to be working for us. Let us try to understand the sources of this failure.

In 1972, Marcos entered into a partnership with the military in order to establish an authoritarian government. He crafted a new Constitution to provide a legal cloak to what was essentially a naked power grab. The military freely collaborated in this political adventure. The Supreme Court failed in its duty by giving its tacit blessing to the outcomes of an illegal ratification process for a new Constitution.

After 14 years as an autocrat, Marcos bowed to American pressure and agreed to hold an election in 1986. He "won" the election, but the people rejected his claim of a fresh mandate. A few days later, a failed coup attempt by young military officers triggered a people power uprising that culminated in his ouster.

The new government of Cory Aquino tried to rebuild the basic institutions crucial to a functioning democracy, starting with the electoral process. By appointing credible individuals to the Commission on Elections, Cory succeeded in restoring the legitimacy of electoral contests. But she failed to jumpstart the modernization of the archaic and vulnerable electoral system.

New faces joined the Cory government, briefly boosting the drive toward reform. Unfortunately, post-Marcos politics remained personalistic, paving the quick return of traditional politicians. The challenge to the *trapos* did not come from reform-minded political parties. It came from celebrity politicians like Joseph Estrada. The Edsa government failed to respond to the needs of the poor. The poor found their champion in Estrada, who won by a landslide in 1998. Cut from the fabric of *trapo* politics, he was obviously not a reformer. The middle class pounced on his lapses, halfway into his term, and sought his ouster.

The impeachment of Erap was aborted when the prosecution walked out, triggering a people power demonstration. As if on cue, the top military commanders of the Armed Forces mounted the stage to announce their withdrawal of support for the Erap administration. This was a betrayal of their constitutional function. The Supreme Court justices compounded the problem when they agreed to swear in Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as President even before there was a clear vacancy in the presidency. That single act, highly debatable in its wisdom, made the high court an accomplice in a partisan political event. It compromised its role as interpreter of the law.

These lapses lie at the center of our present political crisis. They are all traceable to our failure to uphold the separation of institutional functions.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Immigration blues

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN FRANCISCO—HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOple marched on the streets of the big cities, and it was not about Iraq. It was about a chronic issue closer to home: immigration. Just a few weeks ago, an estimated half a million people demonstrated in Los Angeles, possibly the area with the biggest number of illegal aliens, mostly coming from south of the border. Even in smaller cities like Boise, Idaho and Birmingham, Alabama, thousands gathered waving placards and American flags to support the cause of immigrants.

These nationwide demonstrations were billed as "National Day of Action for Immigrant Justice." The great majority of the demonstrators were Hispanic, but there was also a large number of people of Asian, European and African backgrounds. What was the issue?

It's not just one issue, and the issues are very complex. Last December, the US House of Representatives passed a bill that would have authorized the construction of a 700-mile fence along the Mexican border, made being an illegal alien in the United States a felony, and criminalized the extension of assistance by states to illegal immigrants. All these are intended to crack down on illegal aliens, speed up deportations, tighten border security, punish offenders and send a chilling message to those who enter the country illegally.

The Senate, meanwhile, came up with several compromise proposals, one of which would allow illegal immigrants who came to the States before Jan. 7, 2004 and who already have jobs to work legally for an additional six years, after which they can apply for American citizenship.

Another proposal would boost border enforcement to prevent the entry of illegals and punish employers who hire illegal workers.

Still, another measure would give illegal aliens up to five years to leave the country voluntarily before they can return legally to the United States and avail themselves of the "guest worker" program that the Bush administration wants to set up. This program is yet another puzzling issue in the ongoing immigration debates. It would admit 400,000 more workers a year; but some are skeptical about this since business interests want—and could start lobbying—to increase the numbers.

There are 11 million undocumented foreign workers in the United States, including our own Filipino TNTs. No one knows exactly how many TNTs there are, but it's a safe bet that they are mostly in populous California, the most ethnically diverse state, where it's easy to get lost in the woodwork.

Because our names are similar to Hispanic ones, it's not surprising if Filipino TNTs get lumped with the more numerous Hispanic groups. This may actually be to the Filipinos' advantage because political analysts are speculating that over the past 16 years, the millions of Mexicans who have surreptitiously entered the country are becoming a formidable political force.

Reporter Rachel Swarns of The New York Times notes that the demonstrations represented the largest effort by immigrant groups to influence public policy on immigration matters in decades. She adds, "And the scope and size of the marches have stunned politicians in Capitol Hill, as well as the church and immigrant advocacy groups organizing the demonstrations, leading some immigrant advocates to hail what they describe as the beginnings of a Hispanic civil rights movement."

An immigrant leader, Jaime Contreras, who heads the National Capital Immigration Coalition, also notes that immigrants are coming together as "we have never seen before, and it's going to keep going." Even a Republican US senator from Kansas, Sam Brownback, favors granting citizenship to illegal immigrants. "I think everybody is quite sensitive that they don't want to be on the wrong side, politically, of this group."

Can this incipient force translate itself into political muscle in the ballot box? This remains to be seen. It will for sure invite a backlash from the conservative, anti-immigrant sectors of American society. A kind of "nativism" has always existed in American history, the kind that invites irrational fears of immigrants. Also, a clear undisputed leader to unify the movement, similar to what Cesar Chavez did among California farmworkers in the 1960s, still has to emerge.

I have met several TNTs in the course of my travels in the US mainland. Their stories are really amazing—mostly about survival. It would not be prudent, of course, to talk about them openly. But some illegals who come from other countries have no qualms identifying themselves and proclaiming their beliefs. In Swarns' story, Ruben Arita, a 30-year-old illegal immigrant from Honduras, joined the Washington demonstration which demanded that Congress grant citizenship to illegal immigrants who are in the United States today.

"We want to be legal," said Arita, who has worked in construction for the last five years. "We want to live without hiding, without fear. We have to speak so that our voices are listened to and we are taken into account." He spoke passionately about the immigrants' struggles in the United States and their "humanity."

It is a tough issue that keeps recurring. Even among the immigrants themselves, the critical divide, as one economist notes, is not between legal and illegal immigration. It's between high-skilled and low-skilled immigrants. The former category—into which many South Asian engineers, for instance, fall—is definitely preferred over low-skilled immigrants who make up the majority of illegal workers. Columnist George Will, in fact, suggests an unlimited immigration policy that would admit highly educated people with math, engineering, technology and science skills that the American educational system is unable to supply.

Meanwhile, the illegals will always be on the run, exploited by employers, struggling to survive and probably singing melancholy "Immigration Blues."

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

THEY SAID

Late excuse

"Most people are always late, and I hate that because I'm always early. People can't just be late and give 'Filipino time' as an excuse."

—2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman

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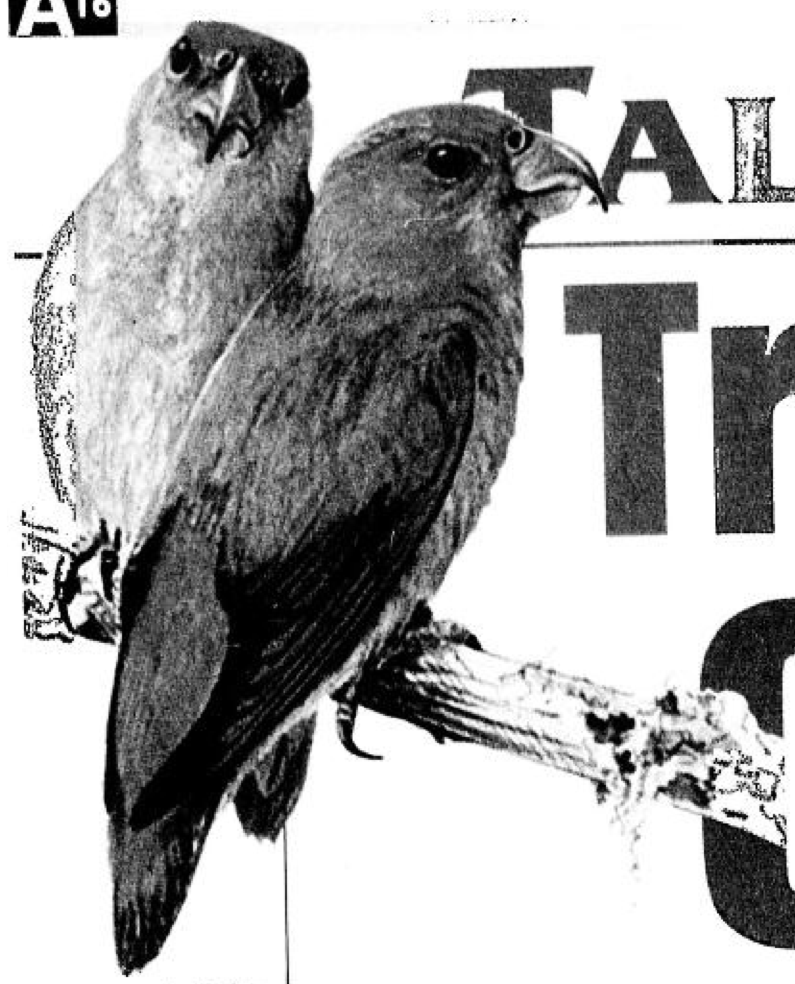
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN



Loriculus camiguinensis

Treasures of CAMIGUIN

LIKE THE FINCHES THAT CHARLES DARWIN STUDIED IN THE GALÁPAGOS, A BIRD in Camiguin has developed characteristics different from those of its relatives outside the island. *Loriculus camiguinensis*, a hanging parrot or *colasisi*, has been established as a new species that can be found nowhere else in the world.

The bird is one of the two new species that Fieldiana: Zoology, a peer-reviewed scientific journal, described in its April 5 issue. The journal is published by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Apomys camiguinensis, a forest mouse, is the other new species.

The discovery of the new species brings to at least 10 the species of wildlife that can only be found in Camiguin, making the island a biodiversity hotspot. At least 54 species of birds and at least 24 species of mammals live on the small island.

The Philippines itself has been identified as one of the world's biologically richest countries.

Isolation has contributed to the differentiation of the flora and fauna in Camiguin. The island has been continuously isolated from its neighbors even during the Ices Ages of the Pleistocene when sea levels dropped to 120 meters below present levels, according to scientists.

The island's forest cover has also contributed to the diversity of wildlife. Saving the dwindling rain forest of Camiguin is crucial to the survival of its endemic wildlife.

With an area of only 265 sq km, Camiguin is the smallest Philippine island known to support bird, mammal and amphibian species nowhere else to be found

By Kate Pedroso
PDI Research

MORE THAN ITS BEACHES, diving spots, Mt. Hibok-hibok and *lanzones*, Camiguin Island is now famous for another kind of treasure: its endemic wildlife—animals and birds that can be found nowhere else in the Philippines or the rest of the world.

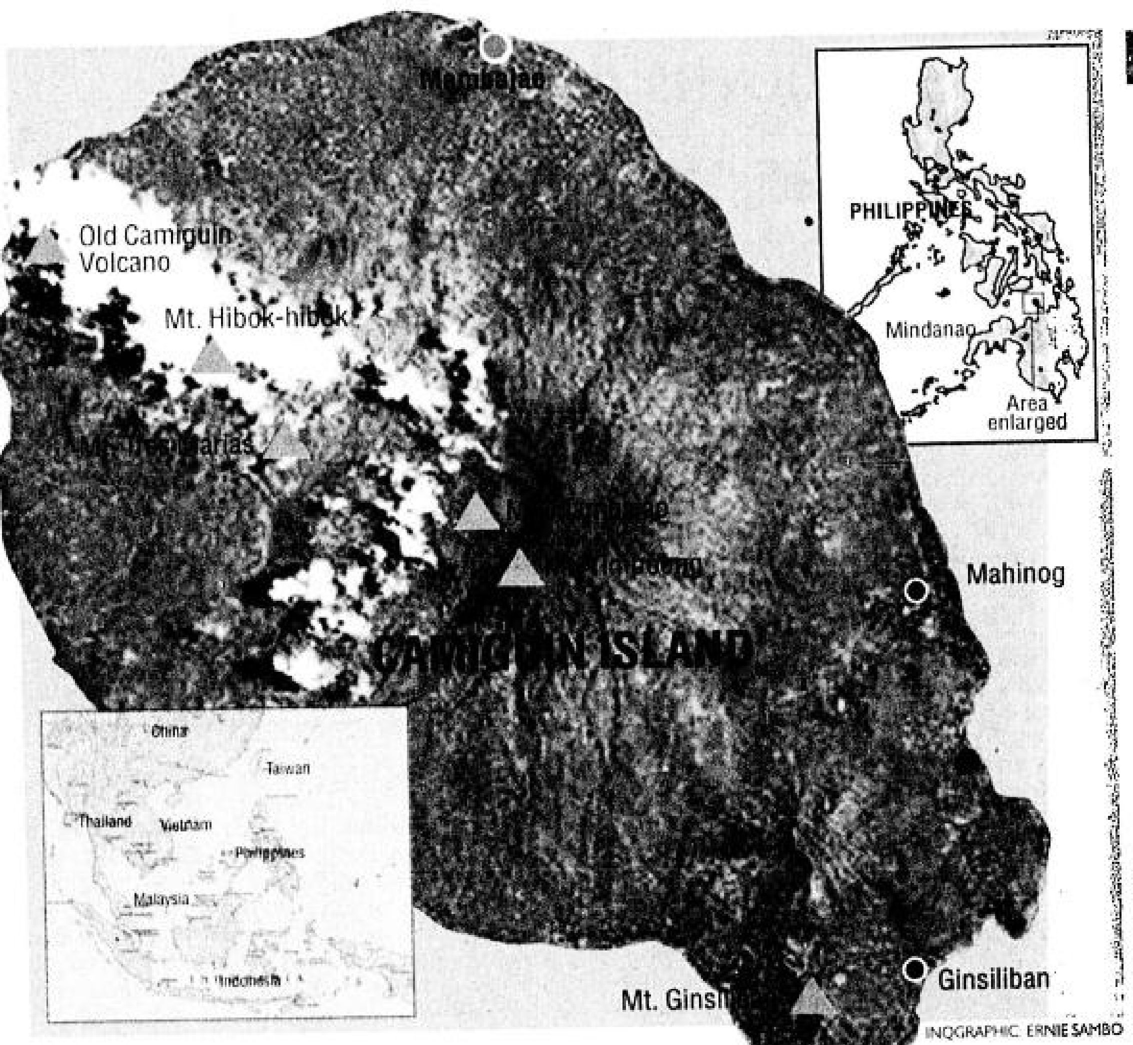
The most recent finds are two new species of bird and rodent—*Loriculus camiguinensis*, also known as Camiguin hanging parrot or *colasisi*, and *Apomys camiguinensis*, a forest mouse.

Two other species unique to the island are the *Bullimus gamay*, a forest rat, and *Oreophryne nana*, a small frog.

At least six endemic plants are also found on the island.

The collaborative work of Dr. Lawrence Heaney and Prof. Blas Tabaranza Jr. on the Camiguin forest mouse, and the previously described Camiguin forest rat led to the "accidental revival" of field work on the *colasisi*, which was started by the late Prof. Dioscoro Rabor.

Heaney is curator of mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Tabaranza is a professor at the Mindanao State University's Iligan Institute of Technology-Department of Biology and is director for operations of the Haribon Foundation.



INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

The island at a glance

Area: 265 sq km

Population: 74,232 (2000)

Industries: Fishing, farming

Products: Coconuts, abaca, rice, mangoes, *lanzones*

Early settlers: Camiguin got its name from the word *kamagong*, a tree of the Ebony family that can be usually found near Lake Mainit in Surigao del Norte. The first people on the island were Manobos from Surigao.

Volcanoes: Lying 10 km north of Mindanao, the whole island is one active volcano with different vents. Five major and several secondary volcanic peaks dominate the island's landscape. Mt. Hibok-hibok is the youngest and only currently active vent. Other major volcanic peaks include Mts. Mambajao, Timpoong and Ginsiliban.

Between 1948 and 1953, Mt. Hibok-hibok's eruptions left more than 3,000 people dead. The tragedy triggered massive migration to other provinces that reduced Camiguin's population from around 69,000 to about 34,000.

SOURCES: CAMIGUIN.GOV.PH, PHIVOLCS AND DR. LAWRENCE HEANEY

Plumage

L. camiguinensis is unique, not only because its plumage is relatively dull compared with other Philippine hanging parrots, but also because the male and female birds can not be distinguished from each other based on their external characteristics.

"[It] is larger than any of the other ones in the Philippines. The beak color's different, the amount of blue around the beak is different, the shade of red is different ... One of the most interesting things about these in Camiguin is that this is the only population known of that group of species, the hanging parrot group, in which the males and females are identical. Usually, the males look quite different from the females. In this species, both males and females look like females of the other species," Heaney told the INQUIRER. The Philippine hanging parrot (*Loriculus philippensis*) has 10 described subspecies scattered all over the country.

Asked how the male and female *L. camiguinensis* can be identified, Heaney said: "When they collect the specimens, the bird is skinned, all the bones and the guts and muscles, everything is taken out, and when they do that, they examine the internal organs, and they can tell at that point whether it's male or female."

"Well, maybe you might be able to able to tell by behavior. There may be some differences in behavior. But in terms of external appearance, they're identical," he said.

Large eyes

It was Heaney and Tabaranza's work on the two new rodents that paved the way for the "rediscovery" of the Camiguin *colasisi*. With its large eyes and ears, long tail and rusty-brown fur, the Camiguin forest mouse (*A. camiguinensis*), was originally caught on the island in 1994 and 1995 by Heaney and Tabaranza. They released the description of the Camiguin forest rat in 2002.

"When we went to Camiguin and found these two new species of rodents ... the ornithologist at the museum said, 'Hmm, I remember seeing some notes on the collection with these *colasisis*, about these possibly being new species.' So it was our field work that made them go back to their museum collection and look at these more closely and realize that yes indeed, this is something that needed to be described as a distinct species," Heaney related.

Heaney said specimens of the Camiguin *colasisi* had been in the museum since 1965, when Rabor, then of Silliman University, brought a team of students that year to study and collect bird specimens. "They were in the collection, and people had written little notes on pieces of paper that they put in the drawers with those specimens, saying this might be a new species, but no one followed through," he said.

DR. LAWRENCE Heaney and Prof. Blas Tabaranza Jr. EDWIN BACASMAS

How can a small island have endemic species?

Forest cover

Heaney and Tabaranza attributed Camiguin's diverse wildlife to its forest cover. A large area of forest still covers Camiguin, mostly at the upper elevations of Mt. Mambajao and Mt. Timpoong.

"One of the things that we realized is that there were a lot of species in the high elevation places, very high in the mountains, where it's cold and wet, where people didn't go look before. That's where we're finding many of these new species," said Heaney.

True enough, both *B. gamay* and *A. camiguinensis* were found at upper elevations of Camiguin.

Logging

Saving the rain forests where these animals live is the key to their survival.

"One of the reasons why we push hard to get this [discovery] published is that when we were doing our field work in Camiguin in the '90s, when we actually found these animals for the first time, there was widespread illegal logging that everybody was aware of. After the logging took place, there were *kaingineros* (people engaged in slash-and-burn farming) moving in as well," Heaney said.

"[Camiguin] is the kind of place where, if they had continued with logging and *kaingin*, their efforts to develop ecotourism will be a disaster for them. Nobody wants to go to a place where there are floods and droughts all the time, where there's just denuded mountains."

Local residents said that much of Camiguin's forest had been removed by commercial logging in the 1980s. In the 1990s, small-scale commercial logging continued under salvage permits, which only allowed the cutting down of dead trees. However, there were cases of trees being killed deliberately by loggers, according to residents.

Landslides

Logging brought disaster to the island.

In November 2001, typhoon Nanang's heavy rains dislodged boulders and sent them crashing into villages while most people slept, leaving at least 148 dead. In Mahinog town alone, 136 bodies were dug up from hip-deep mud.

"Yes, it's [the forest] valuable for the wildlife, but it's most valuable for the people. The clearing of the forest has been a major contributing factor to all of the floods that I've heard about. All of them," Heaney said.

Partly because of the initial reports on the new species, the local and provincial governments, with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, have moved steadily in recent years and designated 2,228 hectares as the "Timpoong Hibok-hibok Natural Monument."

Protected area

The process of officially designating the protected area is set to be endorsed to the President, after which it will be voted on by Congress for final designation—a process that may take several years.

"Maybe with this publicity of the new species, the congressman [of the island] will be more excited to enact this into a bill," Tabaranza said.

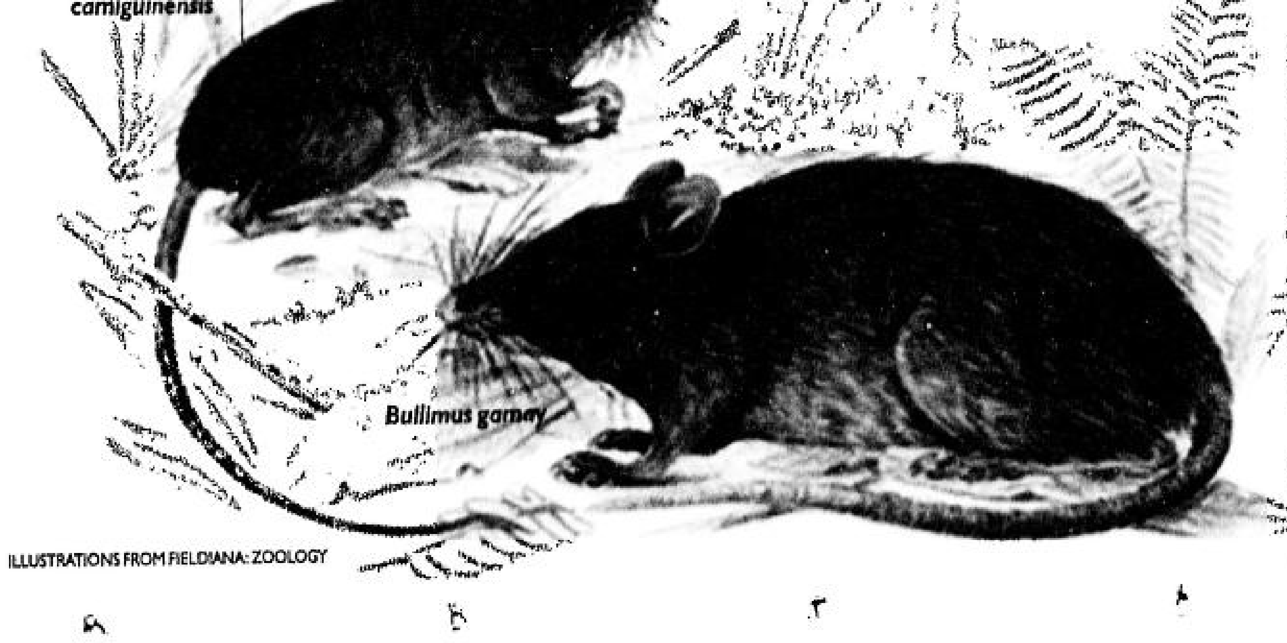
Heaney believes the discovery of new species provides a focus for people, so that they, too, will care about environmental conservation.

"When we make discoveries like this, people get excited. They like to know they've got something in their place that doesn't live anywhere else. And so it helps to draw attention to these forest areas, that in fact they need to be protecting for their own interests. But often they don't get around to doing it because they're distracted by other things," he said.

Sources:

1. Heaney, L.R. (Ed.). 2006. The Mammals and Birds of Camiguin Island, Philippines, a Distinctive Center of Biodiversity. Fieldiana: Zoology.
2. Interviews with Dr. Lawrence Heaney and Prof. Blas Tabaranza Jr.
3. Interview with Maritess Galang, National Disaster Coordinating Council. (for the Camiguin death toll in the 2001 tragedy)

(Heaney and Tabaranza were interviewed by Pedroso and PDI Research head Minerva Generalao in the Haribon Foundation office in Quezon City on April 11.)



Apomys camiguinensis

Bullimus gamay

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM FIELDIANA: ZOOLOGY

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph
INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Marines build water system for Patikul

OJECT OF:
OV. LADY ANN SAHIDULLA
PINE MARINE CORPS (3MBDE/M
F-P (US ARMY SF)
H 1st DISTRICT SULU
ANDY DE ROSSI (PHILANTROP

US SOLDIERS and other guests wait for the ribbon cutting for the water system project.

PHOTOS BY TROY MALCOLM

By Julie S. Alipala
Patikul, Sulu

FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS, RESIDENTS of four neighboring villages here had to contend themselves with the cost of transporting potable water from downtown Jolo because they did not have a localized water system.

Datu Ahmad Albani, chair of Barangay Latih, said the problem was not the lack of source.

In fact in nearby Danag town, there is a spring but there was no way to bring the water to other areas because of lack of infrastructure.

And so, Albani said, residents of his village had to buy water from Jolo—which is about an hour away via a rough road—then transport it to their homes using public utility jeepneys.

Bangkal village chief Abujar Hailid said his constituents bought water for about P1.50 per 10-liter container from the Sulu Water District.

He said transporting these containers was more costly than the water itself although Bangkal is nearer Jolo.

"For each container, we spend P5 for the fare. Imagine how much our people used to spend. Each household requires 10 containers daily," he said.

Three months ago, the situation started to change.

The Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 (MBLT) learned about the problem during a dialogue with residents of Latih, Bangkal, Danag, Baunoh and Bungkaong.

MBLT 7 chief Lt. Col. Martin Pinto said during the dialogue that his team learned of the existing spring in Danag and the possibility it could be tapped to supply other villages with safe drinking water.

"They have a good source of water, the problem was how to share the water with nearby households," Pinto said.

Several dialogues later, the Marines and the residents of the five villages reached an agreement to develop the spring through the *bayanihan* (self-help) system.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, said Marine soldiers and residents labored together to get the water system running.

"Men, women, and children, along with the Marine soldiers started digging up distribution lines from Danag Spring," Sabban said.

The work entailed digging almost 13 kilometers of canal that would accommodate the water pipes that would link the barangays.

The residents also contributed whatever amount they could afford while Pinto said he sought financial assistance from the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP) to purchase huge water tanks.

Aside from the JSOTFP, the 3P Foundation also helped put up the water system.

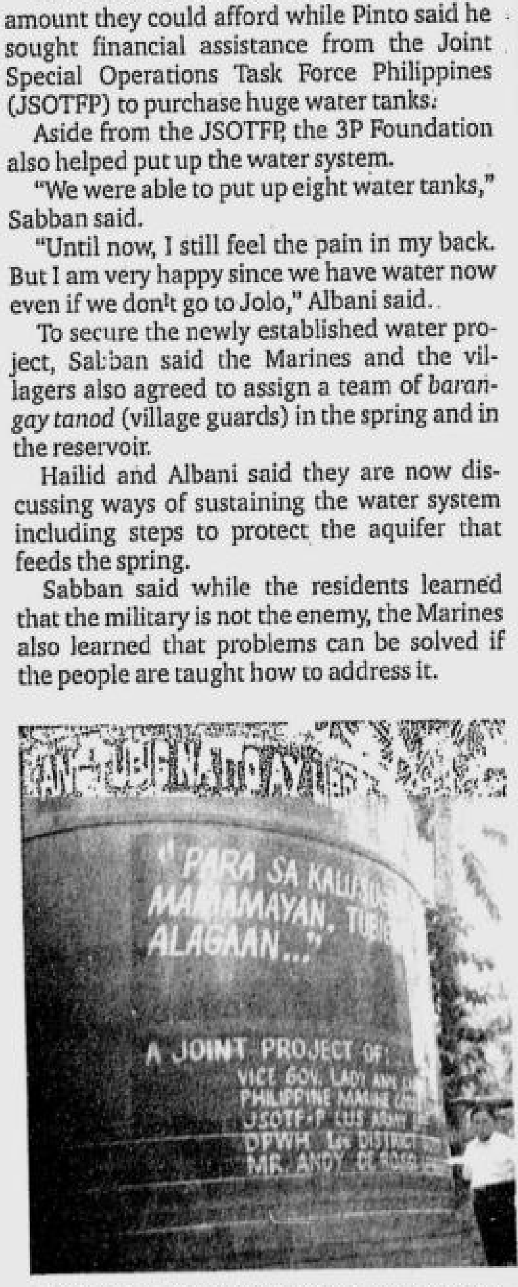
"We were able to put up eight water tanks," Sabban said.

"Until now, I still feel the pain in my back. But I am very happy since we have water now even if we don't go to Jolo," Albani said.

To secure the newly established water project, Sabban said the Marines and the villagers also agreed to assign a team of *barangay tanod* (village guards) in the spring and in the reservoir.

Hailid and Albani said they are now discussing ways of sustaining the water system including steps to protect the aquifer that feeds the spring.

Sabban said while the residents learned that the military is not the enemy, the Marines also learned that problems can be solved if the people are taught how to address it.



ONE OF the reservoirs for the water system that residents of five Patikul villages built with the help of the Marines in January.

LET THE NUMBERS SPEAK

It's time to move forward

OPINION ON THE STATEMENT:
"The members of the opposition against President Arroyo should start helping to improve the country and stop too much politics"

AGREE: 58%
UNDECIDED: 24%
DISAGREE: 15%

* Don't know and refused to answer not shown
* First Quarter Social Weather Report March 8-14, 2006 National Survey

THE SURVEY SAYS majority of Filipinos believe that the opposition should stop excessive politics and start helping the country move forward.

"Their (the people's) most immediate concern and urgent priority is their daily struggle to earn a livelihood...They are seriously concerned that in 2006 we shall repeat the chaotic politics we all suffered in 2005" CBCP January 29, 2006

OPINION ON THE STATEMENT:
"Whatever happened in the elections is over and it is time to move on and let the President focus on the real problems of the nation"

AGREE: 51%
UNDECIDED: 24%
DISAGREE: 23%

* Don't know and refused to answer not shown
* First Quarter Social Weather Report March 8-14, 2006 National Survey

THE SURVEY SAYS majority of Filipinos believe that we should leave election issues behind, MOVE ON, and let the President address the nation's problems.

"We did not see enough anomalies at the national level to have a material effect in the national results" NAMFREL May 2004

Magtulungan tayo. Kaunlaran muna.

PIA
Philippine Information Agency

Marawi ban on vices hailed, hit

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Jeffrey M. Tupas
Cotabato City

THE BANNING BY THE MARAWI CITY GOVERNMENT OF PORnography, gambling and public display of homosexuality and liquor is gaining support, mostly from Muslim clerics.

The ban that took effect two years ago was intensified only this month.

Homosexuals in the city were disgusted and vowed they would continue their struggle for "gay emancipation from the hands and eyes of the patriarchal, oppressive, and exploitative society."

Ustadz Jaafar Ali, an Islamic preacher in Cotabato City, said the ban on pornography, gambling, gays and lesbians, and intoxicating drinks was a positive step in creating a peaceful society.

Ali said most crimes in the Philippines are traced to intoxication, loose sexual morality, gambling, and movies that show overt sexual acts.

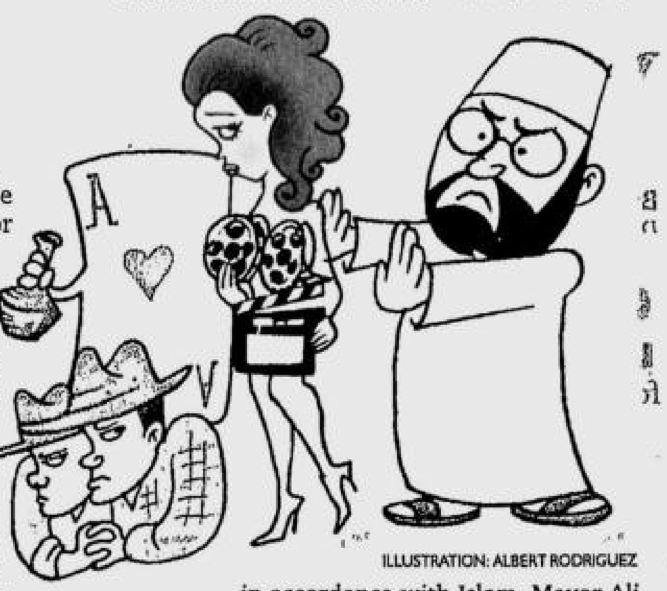
The Muslim preacher expressed optimism that Muslim leaders in other cities and provinces will follow the example set forth by Mayor Omar Ali.

In Islam, gambling is strictly prohibited because one's gain is another's loss, which is seen as evil. Prostitution is forbidden, because all sex outside of marriage is immoral as it corrupts the doers and society as a whole. It also forbids the open display of homosexuality because it is considered a form of mental perversion that destroys the natural order of creation.

To ensure that people live and act in accordance with Islam, Mayor Ali closed billiard halls and totally banned any form of gambling, drinking of liquor, pornography, and public display of homosexuality in Marawi City starting first week of April.

"We have started a crackdown and

MARAWI/A19



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people

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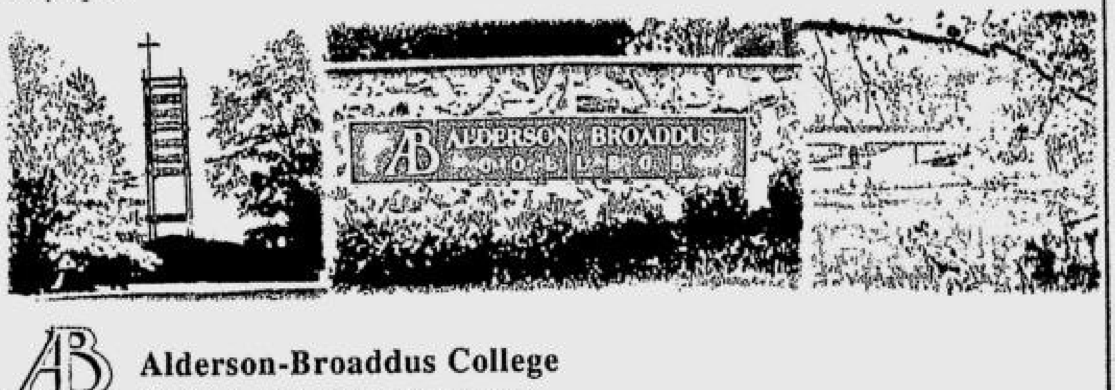

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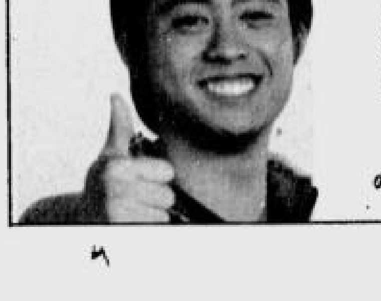

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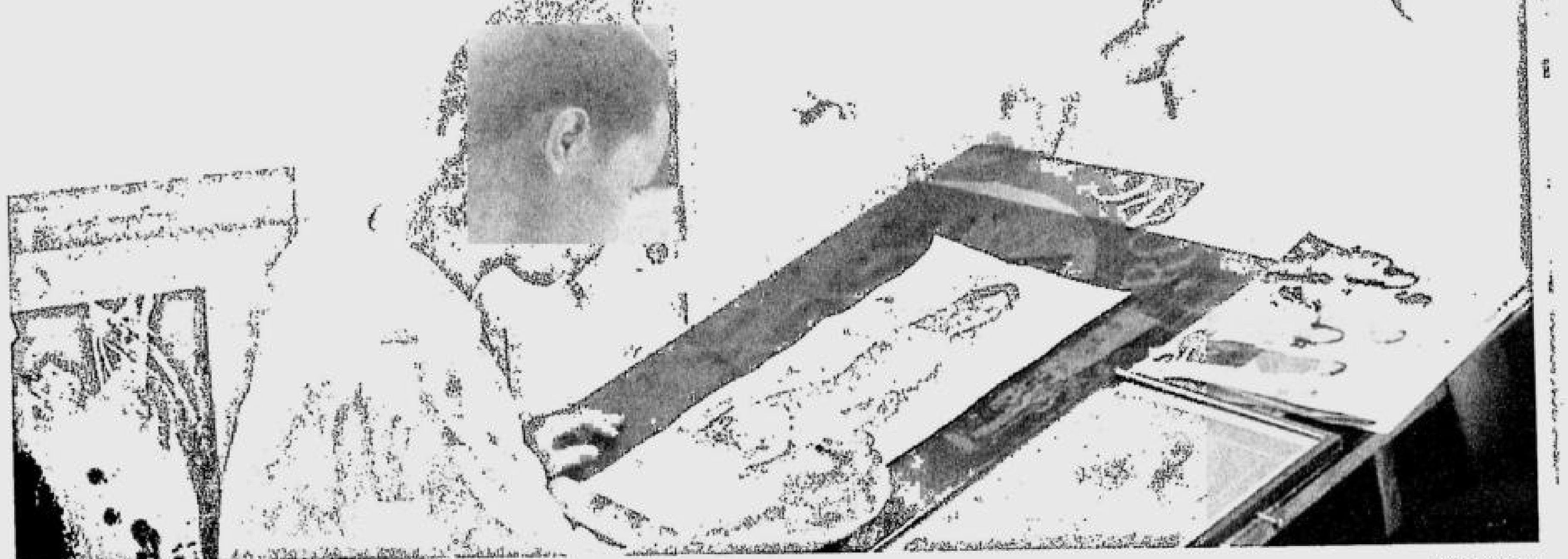
Young boy wants to pursue art studies

By Joselle dR. Badilla
Davao City



SEAN "Butchoy" Pajaron has won several awards for his paintings and drawings.

JOSELLE BADILLA

SEAN PAJARON IS JUST 17 years old but he is already earning a lot of admiration for his paintings.

People who saw his work would agree that Pajaron, also known as Butchoy, is an excellent artist.

. In fact, they would say that some of his work resemble those of Fernando Amorsolo.

Butchoy, who hails from Butuan City, said his love for sketching and painting started when he was in elementary school.

But he realized how serious he was about art only until high school.

"My parents would travel to Davao City when they have time to buy painting materials for me," he said.

"During my first year in high school at St. James (in Butuan City), they made me paint the whole stage for a Miss Gay competition. I didn't get any honorarium for it. *Inutang*(It was loaned), but it was okay, at least I have proven that I really have a talent," Butchoy said.

While at St. James, he continued to hone his skills in painting and started thinking of transferring to the Butuan City School of Arts and Trade (BCSAT), which is known for its excellent graduates in painting and visual arts in the Caraga Region.

Butchoy finally transferred to BCSAT during his sophomore year in high school. There, he started joining competitions in poster making and editorial cartooning.

In October 2004, he joined the national stamp design contest sponsored by the Philippine Postal Corp.

His drawing of a farmer cradling a heart where a stem of rice grows won second prize in that contest.

His winning entry was eventually used as a postage stamp design.

A month later, he joined the Commission on Population's national poster-making contest. His entry was adjudged winner in Category IV and was made the Philippines' bet to the 2004 International Poster Making Contest in New York City.

Butchoy also tried joining art contests sponsored by Petron, Shell and Philip Morris but failed to qualify because of his age.

Today, Butchoy spends most of his time drawing and painting and hanging out in different art galleries.

A young Korean also hired him to do paintings, which are later sold in Korea.

At his aunt's home in Davao City where he has been staying, Butchoy painted a wall with the face of Bob Marley.

He said he hoped to take up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman to continue honing his skills.

His family, who are based in Butuan City, and his other relatives wanted to support him but admitted they were financially challenged.

"I want to finish Fine Arts in UP Diliman but it's really expensive. I'm hoping and praying I would be able to get a scholarship to finish college," he said.

Marawi ban on vices hailed, hit

From page A18

have already closed all billiard halls in this city and destroyed about 60 units of video *karera* machines because these are forms of gambling that are forbidden in Islam," Mayor Ali said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in a statement, lauded Mayor Ali and urged other Muslim leaders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to follow suit.

But members of ProGay-Philippines in Cotabato City said "the idea of homosexuality as a form of perversion of the natural order of creation is not correct."

"We condemn people who drastically say that homosexuality is a mortal sin. It is unfair and baseless to point out that gays and lesbians create or contribute violence in the society. Gender is definitely not a driving force [in creating] violence. Just like straight individuals, homosexuals can be an agent [in creating] chaos but in most cases, [they are] victims of social disorder," Samer Sandukan, ProGay-Cotabato spokesperson, said.

Sandukan said social injustice is one of the major reasons there is war and chaos and, in fact, sexual discrimination is one of these injustices.

"Homosexuals and women are the main victims of this problem. In a patriarchal society like what we have, homosexuality is considered immoral. Therefore, gays and lesbians are put in a box with very limited rights and role in social building," he said.

Sandukan said the move to ban gays and lesbians from Marawi is a pathetic form of modern-day holocaust.

"Thousands of gays were killed during the rule of Hitler in Germany. In that [period], were the gays who suffered fascism the sinners or were it the straight Hitler and his collaborators who undressed humanity?" Sandukan asked.

"Today, homosexuals are still crying for acceptance and recognition not just as gays or lesbians but as humans with life, emotion and ideas," he said.

LET THE NUMBERS SPEAK

We are winning the war against corruption

PERCENTAGE OF COMPANIES THAT WERE ASKED FOR BRIBES
for government transactions

Social Weather Stations Surveys	2000 NCR	2001 NCR	2002/2003 NCR	2003/2004 NCR+C/D	2005 NCR+4 areas
Local Govt. Permits or Licences	55	54	50	41	36
Payment of Income Taxes	52	50	43	39	30
Nat'l Govt. Permits or License	42	34	37	28	28
No Bribes Asked	21	20	26	30	39

In 2005, fewer companies were asked for bribes to facilitate transactions. This is a clear indication that corruption is declining.

OMBUDSMAN CONVICTION RATE AT THE SANDIGANBAYAN

YEAR	Terminated after trial	Disposed cases resulting in conviction	Percent convicted
2001	265	42	16
2002	283	87	31
2003	310	39	13
2004	195	45	23
2005	140	46	33

In 2005, 33% of cases decided in the Sandiganbayan were won by the Ombudsman. Only 16% were won in 2001. This reflects gains in the war against corruption.

Magtulungan tayo. Kaunlaran muna.

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(In exact order)

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Church opposes Ecija STL operation

SAN JOSE CITY—THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT of Nueva Ecija stopped the pilot testing of the Small Town Lottery (STL) as Gov. Tomas Joson III said he was holding the approval of the game's operations amid opposition from the Catholic Church.

Joson said he made this decision after a Catholic priest, in a Friday forum, asked about the position of the provincial government on the STL's operation in Nueva Ecija.

Joson said Fr. Nestor Romano, parish priest here, also voiced concerns about the game's supposed ill effects. The priest also asked the governor if it would be possible that STL would not be adopted in the province.

"I am not one to hide anything. I told him that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (of Nueva Ecija) has approved the pilot testing of the STL... as it will provide revenues for various agencies," Joson said in a telephone interview on Saturday.

He said Romano was among the leaders and members of the Catholic Church, local governments and nongovernment organizations who attended a dialogue on moral recovery and good governance in Cabanatuan City on Friday.

Not discussed in the forum was a P600-million resort project, backed by Hong Kong and Malaysian financiers, to build a hotel with a casino and resort facilities in the province.

The project, said provincial sources, would cater to the A and B market and foreign tourists and could generate up to 30,000 in new jobs.

Present in the dialogue were Bishops Sofronio Bancud of the Diocese of Cabanatuan and Mylo Vergara of the Diocese of San Jose.

Nueva Ecija, according to Joson, is one of the 10 provinces selected by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to pilot test STL for a year.

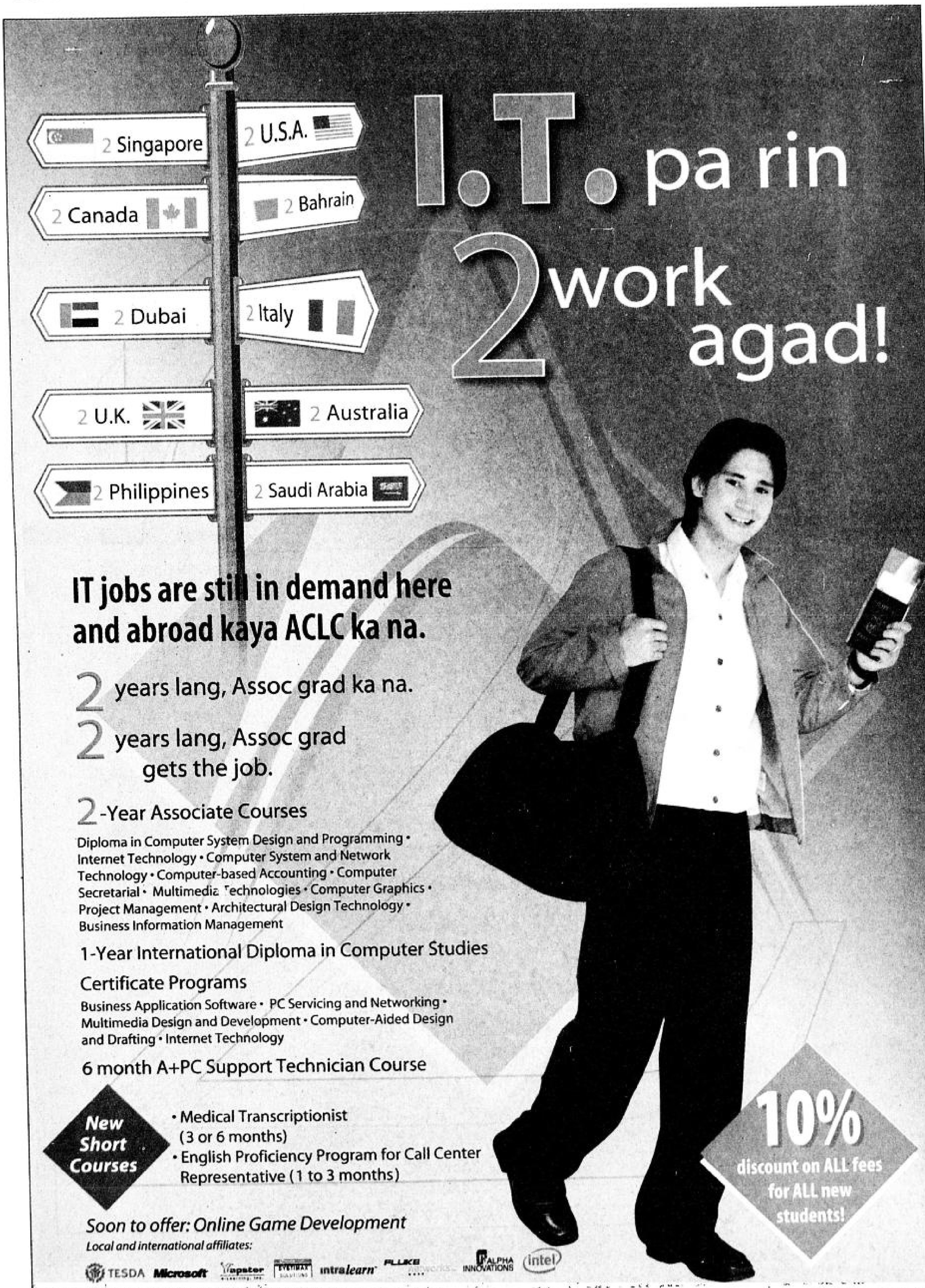
Of these provinces, he said only Bataan has been running STL.

"The fact is that we can start STL in Nueva Ecija anytime. But because of the concerns raised, I am advocating for a high level dialogue with the Church officials in the province. This will give us the opportunity to explain why we are welcoming it as well as hearing the various concerns of Church officials about it," Joson said.

He said he would prefer that all conflicts are resolved before the STL is launched in the province.

Joson said he believed that there is sufficient guideline for the legal operation of the STL as well as the sharing of revenues.

"On my part, it will give employment to a big number of people and provide additional revenues to local government units as well as some agencies. It is legal, so there is no legal block in case we decide to adopt it," he said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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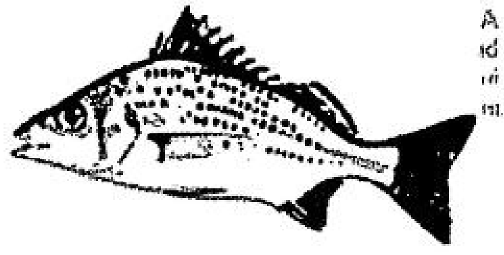


"PIGEK"

Another fish species near extinction

DAGUPAN CITY—ANOTHER INDIGENOUS fish of the Philippines is in danger of extinction because of uncontrolled and unregulated fishing, an official of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said.

Westly Rosario, BFAR interim executive director and Dagupan research center chief, said the fish, known as "pigek" or "pigok" (*Therapon cancellatus*) in Mindanao and "bulidao" in Northern Luzon, has a taste comparable to expensive species like *lapu-lapu* (grouper) and blue marlin.

He said *pigek* is an expensive fish in southern Philippines and caught in commercial volume in the Rio Grande de Mindanao which straddles the provinces of Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato and Maguindanao; Tamontaka River in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao; and Polangi River, which empties into Rio Grande de Mindanao.

Edna Agasen, a BFAR biologist, said *pigek* is sold for at least P1,000 a kilogram in Cotabato.

"There are no conservation efforts on the fish as of present but *pigek* is one of the indigenous species up for research, breeding and culture by the BFAR," Rosario said.

The fish belongs to a migratory species spawning offshore and maturing in inland waters.

Rosario said BFAR's assessment and biological investigation of endemic and indigenous fish species in Abra in 2004 showed that *pigek* or *bulidao* also thrived in the Abra River.

The research was conducted in response to a directive of BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento Jr. to manage and conserve endemic and indigenous fish species.

Agasen said the Abra River is one of the major inland fishing grounds and habitat of endemic and commercially viable fish species in northern Luzon.

Bulidao is one of the commercially important fish species caught in Santa and Cauayan towns in Ilocos Sur, located downstream of Abra River.

Agasen said pregnant *bulidao* are caught near the mouth of Abra River in Santa and Cauayan between May and September. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bomb-maker death foiled attack plan

MACTAN ISLAND—THE PHILIPPINES BElieves the death of a bomb-maker foiled a militant plan to launch Easter attacks on the southern island of Mindanao, a senior intelligence official said on Saturday.

The small militant group Abu Sayyaf, blamed for a ferry bombing in February 2004 that killed more than 100 people, was believed to have been plotting to launch bomb attacks in Zamboanga City.

"We were just days from a possible bomb attack when security forces killed the supposed bomb-maker," said an official of the police counterterrorism task force, who declined to be identified.

"We believed that we have preempted a major terrorist strike."

He said security forces killed Amilhamja Ajijul, alias Alex Alvarez, and a companion in a gun battle 10 days ago in Zamboanga City, where about 200 US commandos are based to help local units fight homegrown militants.

Ajijul, an Abu Sayyaf bomb-maker on Washington's terror black list, was blamed for three attacks in Zamboanga City in October 2002 that killed dozens, including a member of the US Green Berets.

Citing intelligence reports, the official said Ajijul was preparing for an attack funded by Indonesians Dulmatin and Umar Patek, key suspects in the October 2002 Bali bombings, before he was gunned down. *Reuters*

ROOM WITH A VIEW
A child peers out of an opening in a shanty built under a bridge along the Diversion Road in Mandurriao, Iloilo, a scene all too familiar in highly urbanized areas.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Tarlac village chiefs want share of ₱10.5B

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—Although the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has shot down the idea, eight village chiefs in Tarlac have joined the demand for their villages to get a share of P10.5 billion from the government's sale of military base lands.

Barangay captains Mariano Capuno (Aranguren), Florencio Datu (Manlapig), Profirio Laxamana (Lawy), Conrado Capinguian (Sta. Lucia), Manuel Vistan (Patling), Felix Dumulot (Sta. Juliana), Rogelio Gutierrez (Bueno) and Armando de la Cruz (Maruglo) signed in April 10 a resolution supporting the monetary claim filed by Kennedy Molina, barangay captain of Cristo Rey.

The amount has been the first and single biggest claim made since the government in 1992 began selling or redeveloping military lands for industrial and other uses.

Molina said Barangay Cristo Rey, formerly the site of Camp O'Donnell, deserved to get a share from the proceeds because it hosted transmitter stations for the United States Air Force's Clark Air Base, this economic zone's forerunner.

In a statement here on Friday, Molina said the base conversion law (Republic Act 7227) seeks to "accelerate the sound and balanced conversion into alternative productive uses of the Clark and Subic military reservation and their extensions (Camp John Hay station, Wallace air station, O'Donnell transmitter stations, San Miguel naval communications and Capas relay stations)."

The law, he said, aims to "raise funds by the sale of portions of Metro Manila military camps, and to apply said funds ... for the development and conversion to productive civilian use of the lands covered under the 1947 military bases agreement between the Philippines and the [US]." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Attacks on village chiefs up

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Attacks on village chiefs in Floridablanca, Pampanga, since last year have seen no let up, claiming the fifth victim on Tuesday night. Two motorcycle-riding men shot dead Barangay Del Carmen chief Alex Susi in front of the barangay hall. This was the third time that Barangay Del Carmen lost its leaders in over a month. Last March, Barangay Captain Jose Santos and former Barangay Captain Arturo Paras died in ambuscades. On Sept. 29 last year, Sta. Monica village chief Honorio Mariano was shot dead. On March 12 last year, Cabancalan village chief Andy Manacmul died six days after an ambush at his garage. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 land mines seized

LUCENA CITY—Army soldiers recovered at least two claymore land mines from a suspected New People's Army rebel in Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro on Tuesday. Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso, said Raffy Danseco alias "Ka Randolf," an alleged member of the NPA's Lucio de Guzman command that operates in Mindoro island, surrendered to an Army special operating team in Sitio Igar, Barangay Lumangbayan, in Sta. Cruz. Danseco also yielded a battery charger and a handset radio. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

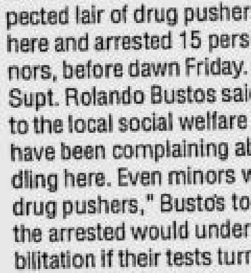
Bridge inaugurated

VIRAC, Catanduanes—After eight years of intermittent construction, Bato Bridge in Catanduanes, said to be the Bicol region's longest bridge at 320 meters, was formally opened last April 19. Rep. Joseph Santiago said the span approaches, a vital component of the Catanduanes Circumferential Road Network, would be of utmost benefit to the two barangays here that endured clouds of dust for years. He added the bridge not only provides a link from the capital town of Virac to Bato, Baras and Gigmoto towns, but also serves commuters bound to four other towns. *Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

15 held in drug raid

CALAMBA CITY—Police swooped down on a suspected lair of drug pushers in Barangay Parian here and arrested 15 persons, including five minors, before dawn Friday. Calamba police chief Supt. Rolando Bustos said the minors were taken to the local social welfare office here. "Residents have been complaining about rampant drug peddling here. Even minors were allegedly used by the drug pushers," Busto's told the INQUIRER. He said all the arrested would undergo drug testing and rehabilitation if their tests turned out to be positive.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village exec suspended



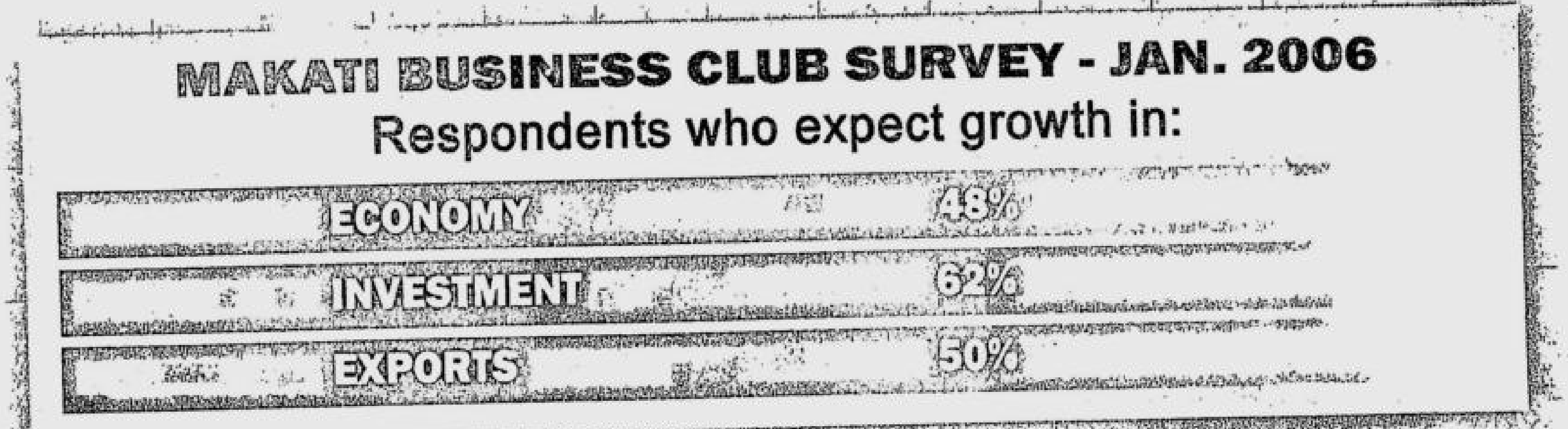
ROXAS CITY—A Liga ng mga Barangay president in Sigma town, Capiz was suspended for repeatedly failing to report in office. The municipal council ordered Christopher Andaya suspended for the entire month of March based on the recommendation of an adhoc committee. Vice Mayor Lemuel de Pedro said Andaya attended only four sessions last year and had been absent since this January. He said Andaya, a barangay captain of Poblacion Sur, did not file any leave of absence. Last Nov. 15, 2005, De Pedro sent a letter to Andaya's office, reminding him of his continuous absences in violation to their Internal Rules particularly Section 13. Andaya sits in the municipal council as an ex-officio member and chairs the committee chair on good government. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

P900M to protect kids

COTABATO CITY—The Australian government earmarked at least P900 million for a five-year program aimed at protecting children in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao and Visayas. Australian Ambassador Tony Hely, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Country Rep. Dr. Nicholas Alipui and governors of the 10 beneficiary provinces signed the agreement on Thursday. The program will accelerate efforts to reduce disparities in child well-being indicators such as education, infant mortality, malnutrition, sanitation and to address child trafficking. The project will be implemented in Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Zamboanga del Sur, Davao City and Samar. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

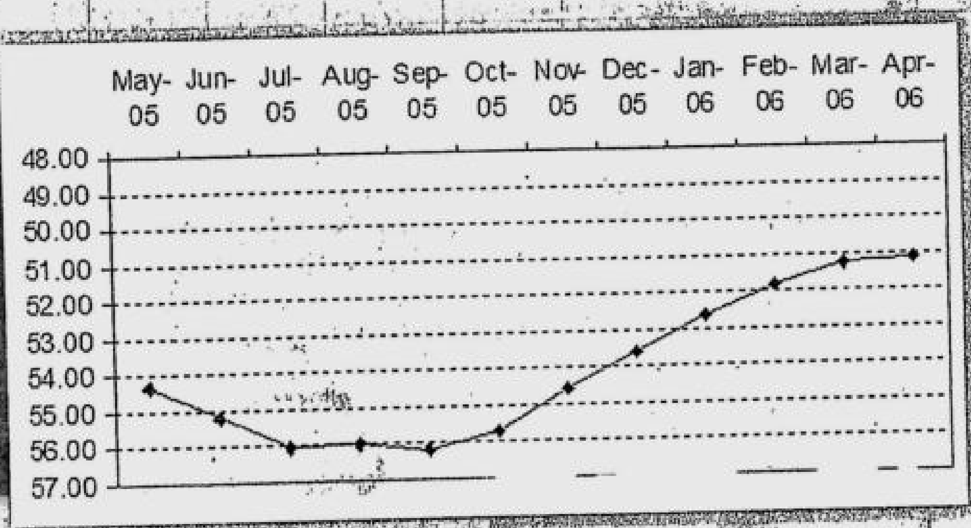
LET THE NUMBERS SPEAK
Our economy is on the upswing

MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB SURVEY - JAN. 2006
Respondents who expect growth in:



"This economy is worth investing in" - Makati Business Club

DRAMATIC GAINS OF THE PESO AGAINST THE DOLLAR



ECONOMIC GAINS :

- ✓ Foreign direct investments in 2005 grew by more than 65% compared to year-ago levels. Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA) investments alone grew to P68 Billion from P50 billion in 2004. PEZA investments are expected to generate over 70,000 jobs
- ✓ Balance Of Payments (BOP) surplus posted at $2.03 Billion in the first two months of the year, three times higher than the same period last year
- ✓ International financial institutions such as ING Bank, UBS AG, Goldman Sachs remain bullish on the Peso projecting further increase in its value
- ✓ UK-based Fitch and US-based Standard & Poor upgraded their credit risk ratings of the Philippines from "negative" to "stable"
- ✓ The World Bank, Merril-Lynch, Bear Stearns & Co. and ABN-AMRO retain positive growth outlooks for the country forecasting economic growth of between 5.4% and 6% this year
- ✓ United Nations awarded the Philippines as the best implementor of microfinancing besting 160 other countries
- ✓ OFW remittances increased to $1.8 Billion in the first two months of 2006, higher by 14% compared to year-ago levels. This continues to pump-prime the economy and provide a better quality of life for OFW families
- ✓ Jan to March 2006 budget deficit is P4.2 Billion below ceiling
- ✓ Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) jobs, like call center agents, increased by 63% in 2005 from year-ago levels to about 162,250 jobs
- ✓ The President's job generation program is nearly half-way to its goal of 10 million jobs by year 2010. As of Dec. 2005, 4.9 million jobs have been generated

Magtulungan tayo. Kaunlaran muna.

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BORONGAN CLERGY SPEAK

Pastoral letter says signature drive deceitful

By Cyrain Cabuenas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR—The Borongan Diocese has assailed the signature campaign in many parts of Eastern Samar on the People's Initiative for Charter change, saying it has signs of deceit and misinformation.

The pastoral letter titled "The Truth Will Set You Free" said the signatures were collected without adequate information, discussion, and education.

"In many cases, signatures have been collected using downright deception, for instance, as people's registration for PhilHealth, promises of 'better times ahead' under a new Constitution, or even better-paying jobs."

The statement said that while it was publicly known that it was the initiative of both national and local officials, it was less known that political authority must be exercised within the limits of moral order.

The statement was signed by Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso and 58 priests under the diocese during their clergy meeting on Wednesday. It will be read in all parishes at Mass today.

The statement echoed the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) parameters for a morally principled Charter change that requires widespread participation, total transparency and relative serenity that allows for rational discussion and debate and based on the common good rather than on vested interests of political dynasties.

"The CBCP statement may have been violated in various parts of Eastern Samar, if not the whole country itself," the statement continued.

The pastoral statement's general observation has been verified by specific reports from certain priests and responsible lay leaders.

Medroso said the people's initiative is just a political tactic.

"It is meant to confuse the people and make the Church and some government leaders at odds with one another because of our moral stand while the impeachment issue takes a backseat," he added.

BAYAN KO,
AYOKO SA CHA-CHA ni ARROYO!
-PEOPLE'S MARCH

MILITANT groups launch their own signature campaign opposing the government's move for Charter change. RAFFY LERMA

Capiz groups formed against people's initiative

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—THIRTY PERSONS REPRESENTING various organizations from different political, socio-civic and church sectors in Capiz on Friday formed a group opposing the people's initiative.

The Capiz Movement Against Arroyo Charter change (C-March) is the first broad alliance of anti-Charter change groups in the province.

Among those present in the C-March launching were lawyer Alberto Deslate, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Capiz chapter, Roxas City councilor Mark Ortiz, lawyer Noede Villareal, lawyer Leobeth Deslate, Archdiocese of Capiz Social Action Center chair Fr. Aris Pedrajas, Chris Heredia of the Capiz Environmental Protection Alliance (Cepa), Bayan Muna Capiz coordinator Remy Beraye, and Shimlester de Pio for the academe.

Condemnation

The group condemned the pro-Charter change signature campaign in the province led by Sigaw ng Bayan-Capiz chapter. They were expected to join the May 1, Labor Day nationwide rally against Cha-cha.

They lambasted the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Department of Interior and Local Government for being instruments of the signature campaign.

The members opposed the initiative because they believed it lack a constitutional basis. They added that they were not against constitutional change per se but they believed it must be done after President Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends on 2010.

Power

"Charter change will only perpetuate her (President Arroyo) in power and make her a legitimate president when actually she is not," said Villareal.

He said they would engage in a campaign to "educate the people about the real issue" because they wanted to stop those spearheading the people's initiative "from deceiving the Capiceños."

Villareal and Deslate also went to court here on Friday to ask for a restraining order to stop the Comelec in Capiz from verifying the signatures gathered for the people's initiative.

Petition

Named respondents in their 19-page petition filed with the RTC-Office of the Clerk of Court are Comelec-6 regional director Dennis Ausan, Capiz provincial election supervisor Nelly Abao-Lee and all election officers of Capiz's 16 towns and Roxas City.

Like lawyers in other cities who filed the same petition before their respective courts, they questioned the legality of the activity, citing the Supreme Court ruling on the Defensor-Santiago vs Comelec case that stated that people's initiative could not be used as a mode of amending the Constitution in the absence of an enabling law.

Not genuine

"People's initiative is not a genuine voice of the people and the Defensor-Santiago vs Comelec Supreme Court ruling forbids the Comelec from entertaining any petition signing to change the Constitution," Deslate said.

The signature campaign has been getting more momentum in Capiz even if the province is the bailiwick of Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas, one of the senators strongl opposed to Charter change via people' initiative.

Enough signatures

In Roxas City, for example, the group o Vice Mayor Alan Celino, provincial chair o the administration's Kampi party and advo cate of people's initiative here, has gathere the signatures of at least six percent of the re quired three percent of the total registere voters of the city.

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Abu chieftain ordered Jolo co-op bombing

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MARCH 27 bombing that killed at least nine people and wounded more than 20 others was ordered by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, a military official said.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade based in Jolo, said one of the four arrested followers of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Alex Alvarez admitted his participation in the blast that tore the Sulu Consumers' Cooperative store.

Sabban told the INQUIRER that Sawali Aslon claimed during interrogation that he was one of two bombers who planted the explosive upon Janjalani's orders.

Aslon was arrested last week, along with four others, during a raid by authorities here.

Alvarez, an Abu Sayyaf bomb expert whose real name was Amilhamja Ajijul, was killed during that raid.

"He said that the explosive was a double switch type and was placed in an empty paint can. It had about four kilos of TNT," Sabban said, quoting a report made by investigators.

Aslon also allegedly told the military that his companion during the bombing is still in Sulu.

Sabban said Aslon's arrest also led to the discovery of other bomb plots by the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have foiled many attempts, but we are not discounting the possibilities that there are still others who might continue with the plan," Sabban said.

The Abu Sayyaf has also revived its other activities in a bid to raise funds for its planned terror attacks according to the military.

These included kidnapping for ransom.

But while the abduction of a wealthy businesswoman and her son in Jolo on Wednesday morning bore the Abu Sayyaf's signature, police authorities were mum on the incident.

The victims were on their way to a family-owned drug store when a group of armed men barged into their home and dragged them into a waiting vehicle.

The suspects then fled with their captives toward Indanan town.

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong called for an immediate meeting of the provincial crisis committee to discuss the latest incident.

"Until now we are still trying to find out the motive of the abduction and according to the relatives, there are no letters of demand or ransom," Jolo Mayor Alkramer Izquierdo said.

The military continues to pursue the Abu Sayyaf but its leaders and members continue to elude government forces.

American soldiers have been sent to help train their Filipino counterparts on new technology and strategies to combat terrorism but no new equipment have been sent. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CASTLES
Children join a contest on sand castle making at the Darapidap Beach in Candon City, Ilocos Sur. This group puts finishing touches to their entry, a fortress-like creation.

Web becomes forum for sea tragedy log

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—TWENTY SIX years after entire families died when Negros Navigation's MV Don Juan sank after it was hit by a Philippine National Oil Co. tanker, the tragedy that claimed the lives of more than 700 people is all but forgotten.

It was this "sad reality" that prompted Joey Kilayko Montalvo, who lost relatives and friends in the sinking of Don Juan, to put up an e-group for all of those who want to preserve the memory of those who died in the tragedy.

Montalvo lost his mother Nora, sisters Mylene and Yvette, and grandmother Alicia Esteban Kilayko when the Don Juan, sailing from Manila to Bacolod, sank on April 22, 1980 off Maestre de Campo Island in Tablas Strait, Mindoro.

"That was really a sad and terrible time for many Negrenses, many of whom were still reeling from the on-going sugar industry crisis. More than two decades after this tragic day, many accounts of the Don Juan accident are in grave danger of getting lost in failing memories or have been lost forever with those who were there but have since passed on to eternity," Montalvo wrote in a Don Juan Memorial e-group he has created.

Remembering

Montalvo said he thought of putting up the e-group for all of those who have connections to the tragedy before they would start failing to remember anymore.

The e-group address is http://asia.groups.yahoo.com/group/donjuan_memorial.

"While many of us have moved on and have chosen to forget, still there are many who have moved on but want to remember. We want to keep the memories of our dearly beloved alive, especially those who were never found," he said.

Montalvo said they want to remember the acts of heroism and selfless compassion to save human lives on the night the MV Don Juan sank.

He also cited the momentous day when the late Pope John Paul II came to Bacolod and dedicated the Don Juan memorial at the San Sebastian Cathedral.

Montalvo said he was inviting survivors, relatives and friends left behind by victims of the Don Juan sinking, including those who used to work with Negros Navigation and in the search, rescue and recovery efforts that followed, to get in touch with the e-group he created.

Sharing

Those who join can share their stories, upload pictures of their loved ones or "simply express your shared concerns and community with those who have been bound together by this life-changing tragedy," Montalvo said.

Montalvo said a good friend of his and high school classmate, Lino D. Ledesma, lost both his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Ed Ledesma, and his younger sister Marjorie.

When the MV Don Juan sank on April 22, 1980, Montalvo's father, Jose Montalvo, was the mayor of Bacolod City.

Negros contractors seek DOJ help for payments

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—SEVENTEEN contractors in Negros Oriental will ask the Department of Justice to intervene on their behalf over the failure of the Department of Education (DepEd) to pay the P48 million it owed them last year.

The contractors were asking payment for the school buildings they built last year in various public schools in Negros Oriental under the Third Elementary Education Program (TEEP), said Jose Uy, of the Trinity Construction here.

Uy said the contractors would send letters of appeal to DepEd, DOF and the Office of the Ombudsman asking for payment.

Uy said they had been trying to collect since November 2005 but they have not been paid even if records showed that the school buildings were built on time and were turned over and duly accepted by officials of the recipient schools.

Uy said that under their contract with DepEd, "payment to the contractor (should have been) made within 15 calendar days after the confirmation and signature by the school engineer of the statement of works accomplished."

Because of the delay in payment, the contractors were forced to borrow high-interest money to pay their workers and buy the materials used in the construction, according to Roger Abugan of VVER Construction.

Warren Yu, of Big Foot Construction, said some contractors are now even facing charges of nonpayment of materials. Others, he said, had to lay off their workers.

Dr. Yolanda Quijano, TEEP deputy project manager, explained that the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which is funding the project, had been very careful in releasing the payment because of the findings of the Commission on Audit that there are school divisions with TEEP, including those in Negros Oriental, that have unliquidated cash advances.

The other reason, according to Quijano, was the failure of the cash-strapped national government to release its counterpart fund for the TEEP during the first quarter of this year.

Quijano explained that under the TEEP program, the JBIC provides a soft loan for 75 percent of the cost. Of the remaining 25 percent, 10 percent would come from the local government units that availed of the program and 15 percent would be shouldered by the national government.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

RIVER JOB
Actress Iza Calzado joins the Iloilo City clean-up drive at the Iloilo River. On the day she joined the cleanup, about 10 tons of garbage thrown into the river have been removed.

NPA guerrillas return items taken from cops

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE BOY GATMAITAN Operational Command of the New People's Army has returned personal items, including bank passbooks, of the detachment commander of a First Provincial Mobile Group outpost in Barangay Malasibog, Escalante City, from where it seized several high-powered firearms during a raid on March 19.

The NPA group returned the items to the Diocese of San Carlos that also turned them over to the INQUIRER to be given to Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police provincial director, and PO3 Antonio Bravo, the detachment commander.

Calima said the NPA's return of the items appeared to be a propaganda ploy.

Ka Bayani Obrero, in the letter accompanying the items, said they were doing so in answer to the appeal of Bravo, who is retiring soon.

Returned by the NPA were three bankbooks of Bravo for the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI), Air Materiale Wing Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AMWPAI) and the PNP cooperative, a Nokia N3530 and SIM pack, a planner and personal PNP records, that were contained in a brown sealed package.

Obrero said the NPA respects the personal possessions of its enemy and ensures that they are returned.

During the raid, where they did not fire a single shot, the NPA seized an M-60 machine gun, one M-16 rifle, one M-14 rifle, two Garand rifles and a .45 cal. pistol, he said.

They also seized seven rifle grenades and a radio handset, he added.

Obrero said the Philippine National Police should investigate where the other M-16 and M-14 rifles the NPA allegedly took went because they do not have them.

Absence of X-ray in Siquijor hospital traced to lack of ₱20

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

SIQUIJOR, SIQUIJOR—THE ABsence of X-ray services at the Siquijor Provincial Hospital has been traced to the lack of a mere twenty pesos, according to Gov. Orlando Fua Sr.

Fua ordered an investigation into the incident, which had embarrassed his administration after it was featured in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The P20, Fua discovered, was supposed to be paid by the supplier of the X-ray chemicals for the photocopying of the minutes of the Bids and Awards Committee. The absence of the amount caused the delay in the processing of the purchase order.

Provincial Health Officer Neil Aquino Alcoran told the governor in a meeting at the Capitol last Thursday that the Provincial Hospital had made the order and request for X-ray chemicals in December last year. But no new stocks arrived, which became very glaring when the Rotary International District 3860 conducted a medical mission last April 2.

Fua said he is holding the province's general services officer (GSO) liable for the incident. "He should have at least paid the P20 or charged it to the supplier or he could have asked me to advance the money."

He said if the hospital administration would recommend the GSO's termination, he would not hesitate to do so.

But he later softened up, saying he is still accepting responsibility over the lapse because his subordinate did it.

"Everybody is wont to commit that kind of an error. I will admit that there was a lapse of duty on a very small matter and we will see to it that that will not be repeated," the governor said.

Fua likened the case of the missing P20 to a clerical error in a news article, as he scored the news article over a missing phrase, which, he said, distorted the facts and blew the small incident out of proportion.

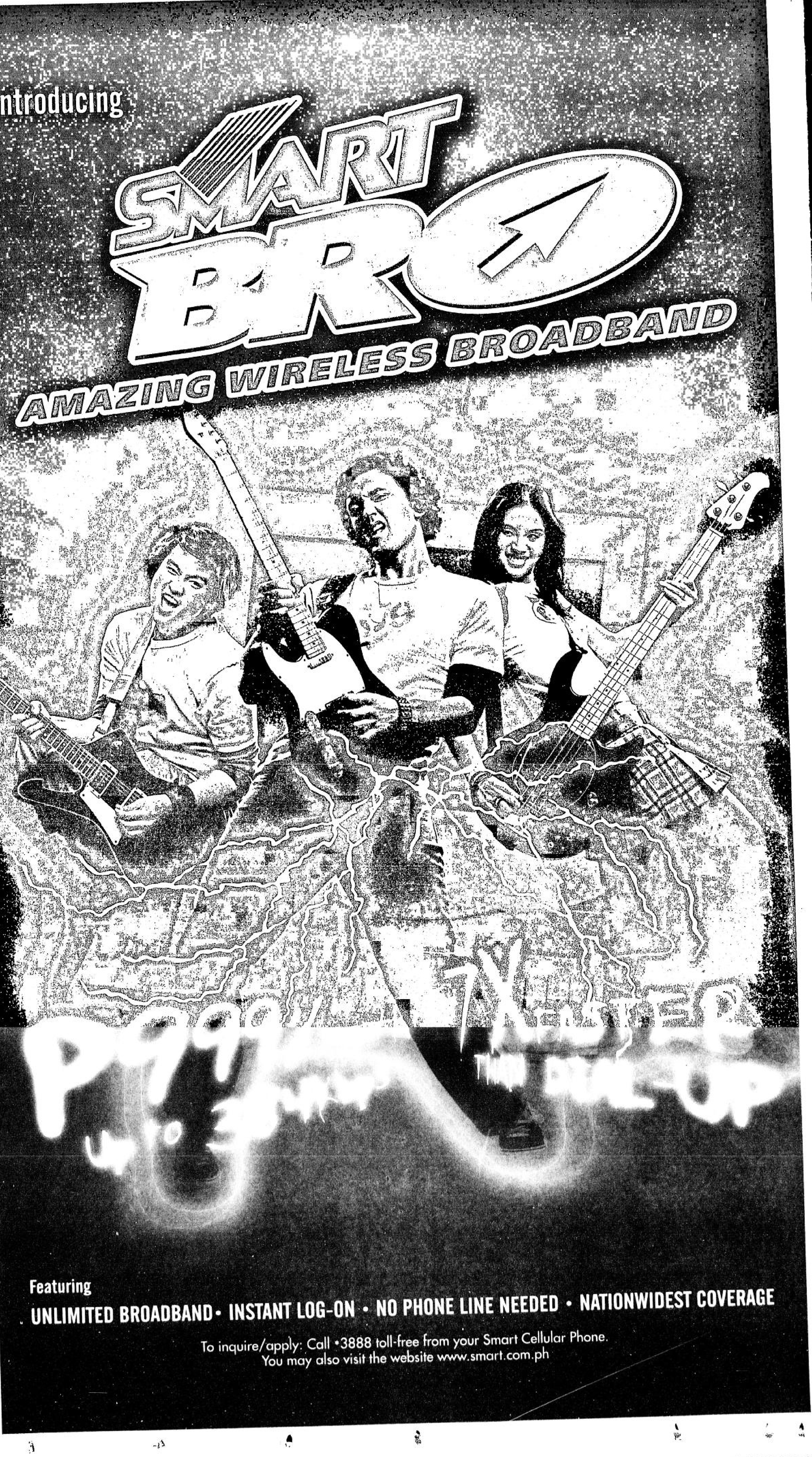
The missing phrase consisted of the words "certain kinds of," which was allegedly uttered by Provincial Health Officer Redempta Cortes in the interview with this writer. Cortes was quoted as having said "there are times when we run out of medicine."

She told the governor that she had said in the vernacular that there are times that we run out of "certain kinds of medicine."

The reporter's notes did not indicate Dr. Cortes as having said that phrase.

The governor said he was deeply disturbed over the news article because it came out after the medical mission conducted by Rotarians.

"You must know that there is only one Rotary Club in Siquijor… and that Rotary Club is based principally in Larena, a bailiwick town of the opposition. And the Rotarians in Larena are perceived to be very biased and antagonistic towards the leadership of the province because the province is not with the party that they have sided with…," Fua said.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Kids learn to save forest in nature camp

Dumagats help in conservation efforts on Mount Purro

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

GROWING UP IN A REMOTE mountain barangay in Antipolo City, Angelita San Jose, a member of the Dumagat community living in the area, knew for a fact that for her family to live, parts of the forest must die.

To ensure that they had rice to eat, Angelita's family cleared patches on the mountain where they could plant rice by burning decades-old trees. Sometimes, they would cut down trees to produce charcoal they would sell in town.

The community grew rapidly, posing a bigger danger to the forest.

But thanks to another family dedicated to saving the forest which poverty, ignorance and neglect had almost destroyed, the 44-year-old San Jose now knows that what they had done for decades was wrong.

"We damaged the forest. But at that time, we did not know that what we were doing was not right. We just wanted to survive," she told the INQUIRER.

San Jose and her husband, who is also a Dumagat, are now working in the nature park sitting on Mount Purro, Barangay Calawis in Antipolo City, two hours away from the heart of Metro Manila. The mountain forms part of the Marikina Watershed Reservation.

Proud symbol

The Mount Purro Nature Park is not only a proud symbol of a battle waged and won by one man's passion for planting and his family's compassion for people of ethno-linguistic groups.

It also serves as a haven for sustaining the campaign to save the forest in the area.

Alberto Malvar, 58, and his nongovernment organization called Socially Ecologically Responsible and Viable Endeavors Inc., have already planted more than 700,000 trees on the 934-hectare reforestation site in Mount Purro. At least six hectares of the site is now a nature park.

Malvar left a thriving trading business to begin the project in 1991.

The park is situated almost eight kilometers away from a main road in Barangay Boso Boso, linked only by alternate narrow segments of concrete and dirt roads.

Welcoming sight

The view that greets the traveler, however, is a welcome relief for jaded urbanites used to views of canyons of steel.

The structures in the park are mostly made of bamboo: from the ceiling to the floor and furniture inside the cottages.

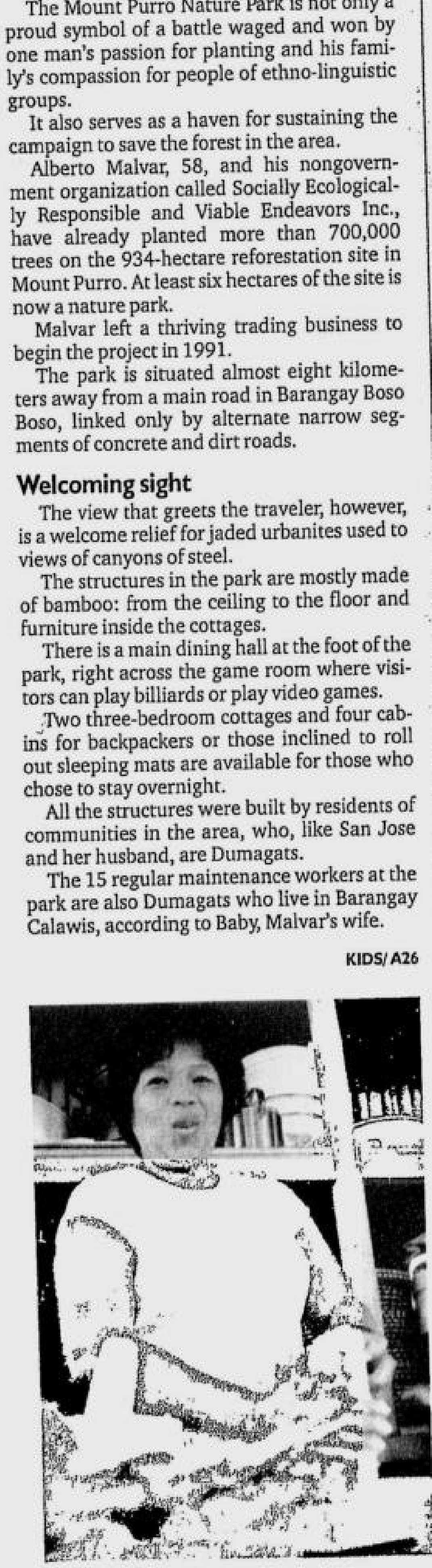
There is a main dining hall at the foot of the park, right across the game room where visitors can play billiards or play video games.

Two three-bedroom cottages and four cabins for backpackers or those inclined to roll out sleeping mats are available for those who chose to stay overnight.

All the structures were built by residents of communities in the area, who, like San Jose and her husband, are Dumagats.

The 15 regular maintenance workers at the park are also Dumagats who live in Barangay Calawis, according to Baby, Malvar's wife.

KIDS/A26



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AFP Officers' Ladies Club (AFPOLC)	• children of members of the Philippine Air Force, Army, Navy • children of KIA, WIA, Medal of Valor Awardees	80% inclusive of miscellaneous fees for the duration of study 100% tuition fee only for the duration of study
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REFRESHING DIP
Families flock to the swimming pool of the La Mesa Ecopark in the La Mesa Dam compound, Quezon City, to escape from the sweltering heat. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Marikina declares 'Carless Day'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TOMORROW IS "CARLESS DAY" IN Marikina City.

For just one day, motorists will not be allowed to use their cars or motorcycles from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 13 major routes which have been designated "carless zones." These roads are situated around City Hall and the public market where a bicycle parade will be held tomorrow.

The "carless zones" will be manned by traffic enforcers who will put up barricades to bar motorized vehicles from passing through.

The Marikina City government declared Monday a "carless" day to show residents that they can live even without motorized vehicles.

"We want to show that we can lessen our dependency on motorized vehicles and still live comfortably," City Bikeways Office Head Lota Contreras told the INQUIRER.

Public vehicles like jeeps and tricycles will be covered by the one-day ban, although they will be allowed to use minor thoroughfares.

Only pedestrians and those on a bike will be allowed to enter the designated carless zones.

On the other hand, government emergency vehicles and construction vehicles are not covered by the one-day ban, Contreras said.

She encouraged residents to use bicycles even when going to other areas outside the carless zones in the city tomorrow to show their support for the program.

The city government has long been promoting the use of bicycles as a healthy and cheaper alternative to cars. It has constructed over 30 km of bike lanes, the only local government unit to embark on an integrated bikeways system.

The project was a brainchild of then Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando, who now heads the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. It was partly funded by a grant from the World Bank.

Aside from the carless zones, the city government, with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will test the air in the city to determine the level of pollution.

The DENR installed two air quality monitoring devices in the city days ago.

Gov't urged to deregulate bus fares

By Daxim L. Lucas

A GROUP REPRESENTING SOME OF THE country's biggest bus firms has asked the government to free them from fare regulation to help them cope with increasing oil prices.

In a telephone interview the other day, Claire dela Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (Imboa), said public utility buses should be allowed to adjust fares at will to allow them to survive under a deregulated oil industry.

"The oil industry is deregulated but we, who are operating under it, are a regulated industry," Dela Fuente said. "So if we're talking about really being fair, both industries should be deregulated," she added.

She pointed out that fuel and other petroleum products account for around 30 to 40 percent of a bus operator's expenses.

Growth-limiting

Limiting the ability of bus operators to recover a significant portion of their operating costs through fare regulation effectively stunts the industry's prospects, Dela Fuente said.

Her statements were in reaction to calls from drivers and operators of public utility vehicles for another round of fare increases due to rising fuel prices.

This also prompted Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Ma. Elena Bautista to warn transport groups against unilaterally raising their fares.

But Dela Fuente brushed aside speculation that bus operators would soon file a petition for a fare increase although she did not totally rule out such an option.

She added that IMBOA was "closely monitoring" the fuel price situation to determine whether the rising trend in crude oil prices was temporary or would continue.

"Even if [petroleum companies] keep increasing their prices, we want to know if it is only temporary," Dela Fuente said. "If it's not permanent, we won't [ask for a fare] increase."

Manila forest park reopens

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday reopened the controversial Arroceros Forest Park to the public as it marked Earth Day yesterday.

The park, which has been renamed "People's Botanical Park," has been closed to the public for the past few months because of the construction of a two-story teachers' building in the area.

However, officials of Winner Foundation, the park caretaker, were not present during the reopening. Instead, they celebrated Earth Day at the Liwasang Kalikasan, a lightly-wooded area at the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The Earth Day celebration at the People's Botanical Park, with the theme "Payapang Mundo, Paraiso ng Tao," begun with a thanksgiving Mass at around 7:30 a.m. It was followed by an on-the-spot painting contest.

Other activities during the day-long event were musical numbers and cultural performances by students of various city schools.

"We have ensured a fitting celebration today for everyone to thank Mother Earth for the blessing of an abundance of natural resources. With these activities, we also intend to raise awareness on environment preservation, taking into consideration the needs of the present and future generations," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

At the CCP, members of Winner Foundation led by their president Regina Paterno held their own celebration of Earth Day by inaugurating the Liwasang Kalikasan, which the group hopes to develop into another forest park like the one at Arroceros.

However, Paterno was quick to point out that their decision to celebrate the occasion in another venue did not mean that they were giving up their right to develop the Arroceros Park.

"Definitely we're not giving up the fight. Our fight continues, only this year, we opted to hold Earth Day rites somewhere else because Arroceros Park is now full of debris and mud," she told the INQUIRER, adding that since 2000, they have always marked the event in the forest park.

Winner had filed a suit against the city government after the latter declared void the foundation's contract to develop the park.

CHILDREN learn about the environment through outdoor activities like rope sports and other games at the nature camp. EDWIN BACASMAS

Napolcom gives tips on PNP tests

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION HAS identified the areas that would be included in the Philippine National Police entrance and promotions examinations on May 28.

"The Napolcom is releasing the PNP test coverage in detail to help the examinees prepare to increase their chances of passing the exams," Napolcom chair and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said in a statement.

The tests on May 28 are for people who want to enter the PNP, or may already be in the force but are applying for promotion to the next higher rank.

The PNP entrance exam will cover four areas: general information—including current events, knowledge of the Philippine government and Constitution, the PNP Law and the criminal justice system—verbal reasoning which covers grammar, reading comprehension and vocabulary; problem-solving and logical reasoning.

On the other hand, policemen looking for a promotion should review on the following: knowledge of police administrative and operational procedures, values and ethics; Philippine laws and jurisprudence; developments in the criminal justice system, and awareness of social issues.

The coverage of the tests can also be viewed online on the Napolcom website at www.napolcom.gov.ph.

The entrance and promotions exams last year saw the lowest passing rates to date for both tests since the implementation of the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act, the Napolcom said. The law, which sought to professionalize the police force, called for the creation of tougher entrance exams.

Only 9.77 percent of 39,046 examinees passed the PNP entrance and promotions tests in 2005.

METROBRIEFS

Free internet lessons

SURFING this summer? The Marikina City Library is offering free lessons on using the internet to a few pupils. Librarian Evelyn Nabus said more than 30 elementary students have already started the three-week training on how to surf the web and use the computer for their school work. "We noticed that pupils conducting research in the library still have difficulty looking for useful websites. So we thought of holding this free training," Nabus told the INQUIRER. The training, which started Monday, is being held three times a week, with two one-hour morning sessions for children aged 9-10 and another two one-hour sessions in the afternoon for those aged 10-11. With more residents still applying, Nabus said the only problem is that they have only eight computers, one of which is not working.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Korean ballet company in town

BALLET Manila, under the artistic direction of Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, will be hosting a performance featuring Korean classical ballet today. Featuring joint performances with the Hwang Kyu Ja Yan Ballet Company of Seoul, South Korea, the show will feature Giselle, a timeless romantic classic, at the Aliw Theater in Star City at 7 p.m. For tickets, reservations and more information, please contact Bugs / Susan at 5255967 or 4043086 or e-mail info@balletmanila.net. Tickets are priced at P400 each.

BALLET Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde (second from left) with some members of the Hwang Kyu Ja Yan Ballet Company from Seoul, South Korea.

Kids learn to save forest ...

From page A25

"In taking care of the environment, you also have to take care of the people," said Malvar's daughter, Kit Llamas.

"If they don't have an alternative source of income, they can easily cut down a 50-year-old tree just to produce charcoal which they would sell for as little as P5," she added.

Exposure to her father's work in her growing up years inculcated in Llamas a deep love for the great outdoors. Today, Llamas organizes nature camps in summer under her group, Camp Explorer, for children curious about forest treks and following nature trails.

Outdoor fun

Through outdoor activities like rope sports and other games, children are taught not only to discover their hidden selves but also learn a thing or two about the environment. "There are some sheltered children who see mangoes and bananas in a supermarket tree, but never see these hanging from a tree," Llamas said.

"By joining our summer camps, children get to learn not only about the bounties of nature but also about the effects of bad practices like the slash-and-burn method (*kaingin*)" Llamas said.

Students are charged P5,000 each for a four-day program in the park, although Llamas said they are looking for ways to sponsor children from poor families who want to join the programs.

Together with her foreign partner, Llamas' ultimate vision is to hold camps for Filipino children living abroad by bringing them over to the park and reconnecting them with their roots and culture.

Difficult but worth it

Malvar admits that saving the forest was a worthy but a difficult battle. "As long as they are hungry, people here will continue to cut trees," he said.

"So we have to provide opportunities for them to work without destroying the environment," he added.

MALVAR and daughter, Kit EDWIN BACASMAS

Although many say he has done a lot for the welfare of the Dumagats, Malvar admits that there is still a lot of work ahead.

Already, he has plans to expand the facilities in the nature park by including the construction of a swimming pool on top of the mountain to entice more people not only to have fun but to support reforestation efforts.

Life-changer

But Malvar's biggest achievement would be helping make a change in the lives of the Dumagats.

For one particular family, Malvar's efforts would not have been in vain.

San Jose, who has been working for the park for almost nine years, was never able to enroll in high school.

But her youngest daughter, Sheryl, is luckier. She is now a full time college student, thanks to Malvar.

Sheryl will be a full-fledged forester in two more years. Malvar would certainly need an extra hand in the never-ending job of being keeper of the park.

Chess prodigy rises above handicap

Marc Nazario's goal is to become world champion at 22

By DJ Yap

IN THE QUIET SPORT CALLED CHESS, as well as in the game called life, a hearing impairment can be both a curse and a blessing.

No one knows this better than Marc Christian Nazario, a chess prodigy who has bilateral aural atresia, a congenital defect characterized by the absence of ear canals.

TALES OF THE CITY

But what others would call a handicap has not stopped the 12-year-old from embarking on a fruitful career in chess. After winning a chestful of medals here and abroad, Marc has been named Candidate Master by the FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs), the world's highest governing body for chess.

He has also trained under chess grand masters Eugene Torre and Bong Villamayor, and is the youngest member of the 64 Golden Men of Philippine Chess, an organization that actively promotes the game at the grassroots level.

For his mother, Cynthia, however, Marc's single greatest achievement is rising above his condition.

Marc can hear only sounds within earshot. "For example, if he's just in front of you, he'd be able to hear you, but if he's by your side, or if the sound comes from the back, he'll have a lot of difficulty," Cynthia told the INQUIRER.

Advantages, disadvantages

But the disability also offers some advantages: "In some ways, it has probably helped him. He can concentrate and focus more on his game," she added.

Chess, a sport where the softest sound could be a distraction, sometimes benefits the hard of hearing, Cynthia said. For this reason, Marc has never used his hearing aid in a match since it could make him too sensitive to sound, she added.

The disadvantages, however, are still there. "Sometimes, the rules are being explained before a game and Marc would not hear them clearly," Cynthia said.

Marc, who will begin high school in June, dreams of becoming a chess grand master, a goal he hopes to accomplish in "less than 20 years." More than that, the boy also aspires to reaching the top rung in the profession: becoming World Champion.

Aiming high

"My goal is to become an International Master by 15, a Grand Master before I am 18, and to become a World Champion at 22," he wrote for a school project.

But Marc has other ambitions: "I also want to be a doctor so I can heal the sick," he told the INQUIRER.

"I also want to be the youngest ambassador because I want to go to many, many places," he said. "I would also like to take flying lessons so that I can reach the sky or fly around the world," he added.

Five years ago, Marc's future did not seem so bright. His parents had many sleepless nights worrying about their son and his condition. The boy was shy, had no friends and was comfortable only in the company of immediate family members.

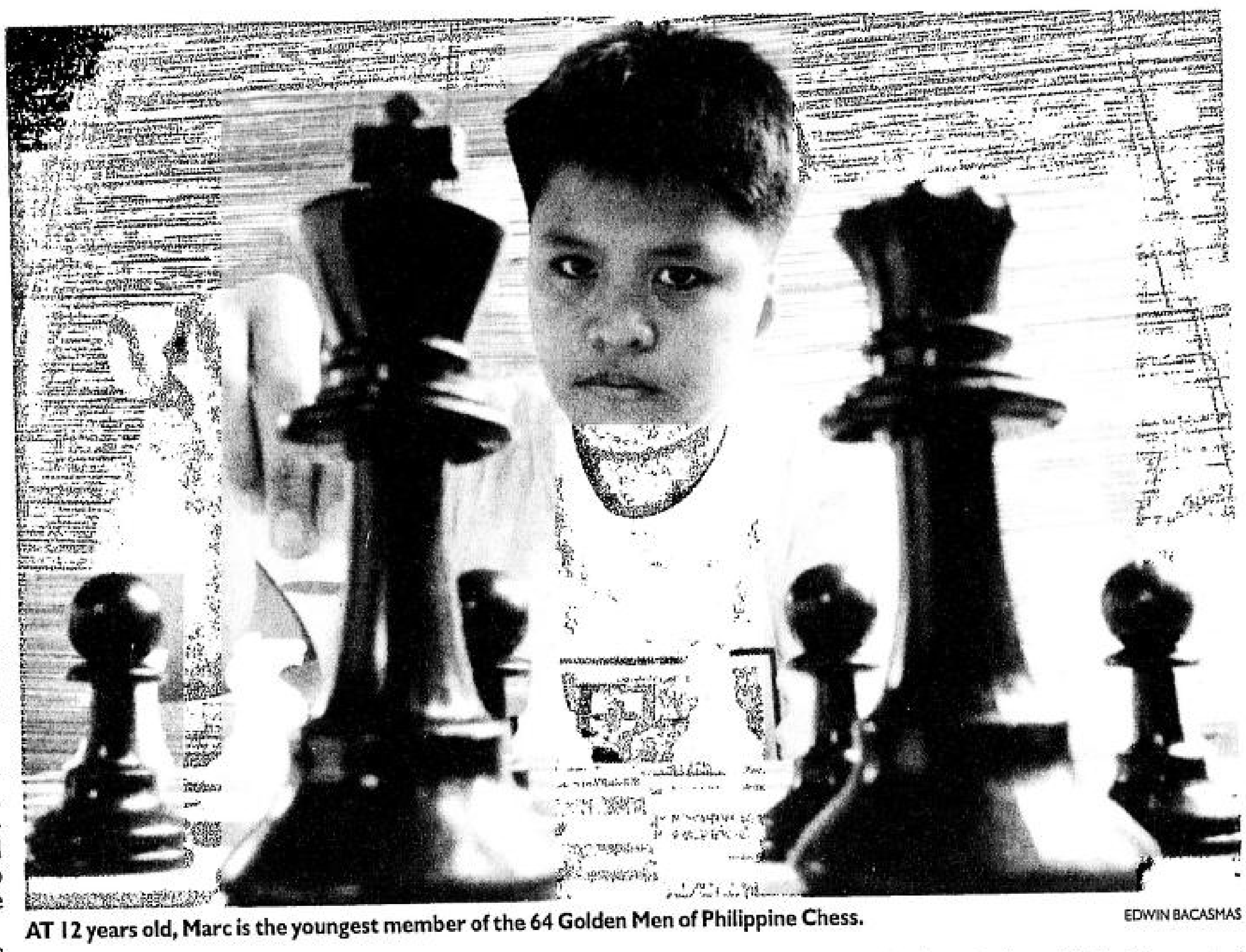
Cynthia and her husband, Ulysses, an engineer, were painfully aware that Marc's handicap could make him a subject of ridicule in the outside world.

"I felt helpless. What chance does this boy have? For us who are 'normal,' life is already unfair. What would the future hold for him?" she said.

But when the boy, then eight, learned to play chess on his own as he tinkered with his mother's Palm Pilot, everything changed.

Marc began to come out of his shell. After years of home schooling, his parents sent him to a regular school, having seen how his confidence and social skills had vastly improved.

He started beating his father and his brothers Ted and Bill, who were older by 10 years, in the game, prompting his parents to get professionals to train him.



AT 12 years old, Marc is the youngest member of the 64 Golden Men of Philippine Chess. EDWIN BACASMAS

Soon, he was winning chess tournaments.

Last year, with the help of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. who raised the funds for their airfare, Marc and his mother went to the United States in search of FIDE-recognized events.

Help from strangers

With little pocket money and no relatives to stay with, they had planned on leaving after going to just one state tournament. But when Filipinos there learned of their predicament, help soon poured in.

"Some of them gave us money, like $50 dollars here and there, while others brought us to the venues," Cynthia said.

When they came home after three months, Marc was clutching no less than four medals, with two gold finishes at JCC Scholastics Chess in Skokie, Chicago, and Coastside Scholastics Chess in Half Moon Bay, California. He also won a silver medal in the Providian Scholastics Championships in San Francisco, California, and triple-tied for bronze at the US National Junior Open in Mason, Ohio.

In 2004, Marc had won a team gold medal (rapid category), an individual silver, a team silver, and an individual bronze (standard category) at the 5th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Age-Group Chess Championship in Vietnam. In 2003, he won a team bronze medal at the 4th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Brunei.

At present, Marc's performance at chess tournaments is not as good as it used to be, a sign that he needs to undergo further training, said Cynthia, a water and environment consultant who had to quit her job to devote herself to looking after her son.

But training fees, apart from his schooling, don't come cheap, so Cynthia is trying to find sponsors who can help her son. Belmonte has pledged to help Marc undergo an ear operation, hopefully after the National Age-Group Championship in mid-May, she added.

Marc may be an outstanding chess player, but what Cynthia prizes the most is the fact that Marc has always been a good boy. "Since he was born, he has caused us very little trouble," the proud mother said. "He's generous and very kind. I think the real blessing is his good natured character. All these medals are really just a bonus."

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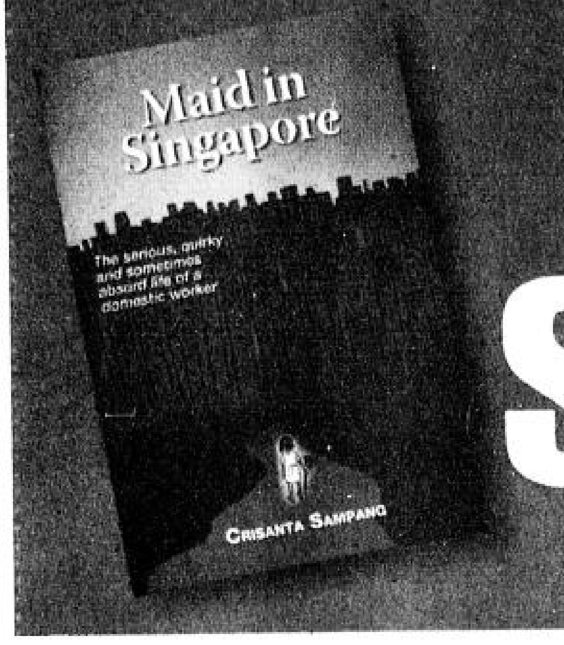
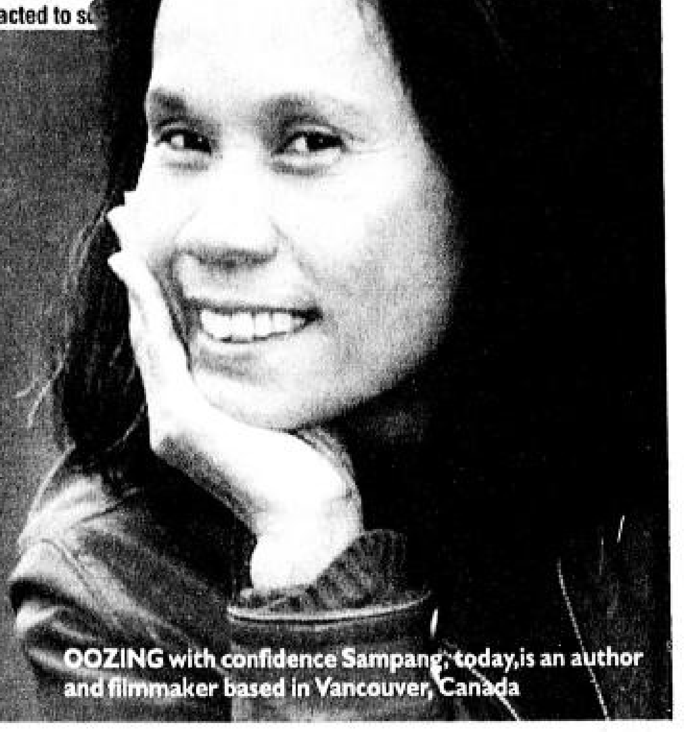
GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to s


Maid in Singapore
The serious, quirky and sometimes absurd life of a domestic worker
Crisanta Sampang

Self-maid in Singapore


OOZING with confidence Sampang, today, is an author and filmmaker based in Vancouver, Canada

By Elvira Mata

WHEN HER NINE-YEAR MARRIAGE ENDED, Crisanta Sampang left her kids aged 7, 5 and 2 with their grandmother, and got a job as maid in Singapore.

Now a promising filmmaker in Vancouver, Canada, Sampang, 49, has written a book about her experiences in Singapore, detailing the juggling act that maids there are expected to perform—to be nanny, cook, cleaner and sometimes, mistress.

"Maid in Singapore" details her life on the island state from 1984 to 1988 and explains why young, well-educated women are forced to leave their families to work overseas and live among strangers.

Sampang wrote: "In the spring of 1984—I was 27, without a husband, without a job, and with three small kids to feed. I was too short to work in a factory and too inexperienced to work in an office… I wanted to write, but my world was too limited and I had nothing original to say. Somehow selling my body never occurred to me. So I set my sights further. Driven by necessity and armed with the knowledge that dirt lay in wait on every staircase, I felt confident that all I needed was an accurate index finger wrapped around a wet piece of cleaning cloth. Thus did I embark on a new adventure—working abroad as a domestic."

It's a story we've heard before, but this one has a happy ending.

Sampang, originally from Lipa, Batangas, stopped school one year shy of a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science to marry a salesman. Nine years and three kids later, she packed her clothes in a borrowed suitcase and left to work as a maid in Singapore for 300 Singapore dollars a month.

To get this far, she had lied about her marital status, borrowed her brother's money meant to finance his rehab to pay for the agency placement fee and bribed a dispatcher with buco pie so he would put her name at the top of the passenger list bound for Singapore.

When she landed in Singapore, life, as she knew it, started to change. She was reminded not to wear shoes inside the house (not even the Prime Minister of Singapore wore shoes inside the house, she was told). She learned how to speak English with a Singlish accent, cook Hokkien mee (noodle dish) and hang laundry from a high-rise building by wrapping one leg around a window beam while reaching out to a bamboo pole clipped with damp clothes outside the window.

In short, she learned to survive. But Sampang was among the lucky ones. She was not among the underpaid, overworked and abused runaways who jumped from buildings. "I didn't have much experience with abused nannies. But I heard things," Sampang wrote.

Writing articles

The self-confessed ambitious and hardworking woman spent the next four years working for the Aw family, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Aw, whom she fondly called Bossy and Momsy and their two sons, Marc, who was then 5, and Kenny, who was 2.

She enjoyed her four years in Singapore which allowed her to grow up, she wrote, and resolve issues she had with her own mother.

Sampang also found time to contribute articles about her life as a domestic to The Straits Times and other publications.

After completing her contract in Singapore, Sampang went to Canada to work as a nanny-housekeeper from 1988 to 1992. While employed as a domestic, she took evening computer and writing courses. After getting her landing status in 1992 and leaving nannying, she took her first office job helping foreign domestics sort their immigration problems.

After three years in the immigrant services, she worked for the Vancouver Television—now CTV BC—starting as a researcher and when she left, she was running the station's North Shore newsroom.

After CTV, Sampang went to Vancouver Film School in 2000 to learn filmmaking.

"After my TV job, that was when I decided to become a filmmaker. I did not like working in the news anymore. Too much murder and mayhem. I wanted to film stories with happy endings," she told the INQUIRER last week via e-mail.

FRESH OFF THE PLANE IN 1984: Sampang with her two wards Kenny, 2, and Marc, 5 (foreground), in Singapore

The last Filipino movie Sampang saw was "Milan," a story of OFWs in the Italian city. She has also seen "The Flor Contemplacion Story," which is about the Filipino maid executed in Singapore.

"It was screened in Vancouver and Nora Aunor came to launch it personally. I met her. We're about the same height and size. I cried when I saw it, also felt somehow helpless and frustrated because there was nothing I could do to help," Sampang said.

Launching her book

Last year, she returned to Singapore to launch her book, published by Marshall Cavendish, a publishing brand of Times Publishing. Copies sold briskly at Times The Bookshop and at Popular Bookstore. It's not surprising since there are 60,000 to 75,000 Filipino domestics in Singapore, according to Merriam Cuasay, Philippine labor attaché in Singapore, as quoted by Sampang in her book.

Sampang said she had three reasons for writing the book:

"To purge bad memories, to introduce my children to the world and to speak for myself and other domestic workers," she said.

"Domestics are usually looked down upon everywhere. [They] are misunderstood, sometimes abused. Yet they are the most hard-working, loving people I know. They are educated, professionals filling a labor need in other countries and employers should realize this," she added.

Sampang started writing her book in Vancouver and finished it after a year. She described the process as "emotionally difficult, because my recollections were so vivid I would cry. So I'd stop writing and call my daughters to talk to them."

Asked to compare the condition of Filipino domestics then and now, Sampang said: "The situation is still the same. Even the salary rate is the same, although the exchange rate is higher. I started at P8 to the [Singapore] dollar, and it was P10 by the time I left and [P32 at present]. It has improved in a way because the Singapore government is making an effort to cooperate with the Philippine Embassy to help domestics who have complained of abuses or non-payment of salaries."

Finding a good employer, she added, was still a matter of luck and attitude.

"A maid may find a naturally good employer or she may have to fight to get the right treatment. Or she could be taken to the airport without discussion the minute she angers her employer. One domestic helper I was talking to at Lucky Plaza (shopping center popular among Filipinos in Singapore) told me that her boss takes 10 Singapore dollars off her pay every time she makes a mistake," she said.

Maid in Vancouver

Sampang, who has dual citizenship—Filipino and Canadian—is working on her second book, "Maid in Vancouver" and on a script she plans to direct and produce in the next two years.

"I'm now doing what I have wanted to do since I was 9 years old, which is writing and being creative. I feel fulfilled in my professional life. My only unhappiness is I'm living away from my children right now, although I hope that this situation is not forever," she said.

Two of her children are now married. Catherine lives with her husband in Tacoma, Washington, USA.

"They live three hours [by car] from Vancouver, and I drive down once a month to visit them," Sampang said.

Maricar lives in the Philippines with husband Victor and their three children, Kiko, 7; Taz, 5; and Trisha, 2. Maricel is still working in Manila but is currently processing her immigration papers to Vancouver.

Sampang never remarried although for the last five years, she has lived with Daniel Wood, a multi-awarded journalist in Vancouver.

Any life lesson she'd like to share with her kids? "I want them to believe in their own abilities—wherever they are. All people are equal, whatever their situation in life is, the color of their skin or the language they speak. Peel away the trappings that define an individual and he's just like every other person—he dreams, loves, wishes the best for people he loves," she said.

"Maid in Singapore" is available at Fully Booked at the Greenhills Promenade and Power Plant Mall.

FAST FACTS

Filipinos living and working in Singapore

Population (as of 2004)	**136,489**
Certified OFWs	64,337
Undocumented	72,000
Permanent residents	152
Professions/skills	
Domestic helpers	81,950
Computer programmers	9.850
Architects/draftsmen	5,955
Engineers	5,085
Nurses/nursing aides	4,995
Construction workers	1,050
Hotel interns	732
Factory workers	240
Musicians/entertainers	730
Others	14,263
Remittances (as of 2005, in million US dollars)	240.1
Filipinos in detention centers/under house arrest/w/court cases(as of 2000)	140.0

SOURCES: COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH

Going places in all-weather denim jackets

By Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

A POPULAR BRAND OF JEANS came up with the slogan "Make them your own" for its international marketing campaign in 2000.

But for Filipinos, especially those working abroad, the exhortation was unnecessary. Overseas Filipino workers (OFW) have already made the *maong* or denim, especially jackets, their trademark long before Levi's launched its campaign.

"*Bago pa [ako] nag-abroad, nauso na ang maong. Maraming Pilipino ang naloko sa* Levi's," says 50-year-old Victor Gonzales, who has spent almost half of his life working in an aluminum company in Dubai.

He adds, "*Dito kapag may nakita kang naka-maong na jacket, instantly sasabihin mo, 'Ay Pilipino iyan'.*"

PHOTOS BY JESS YUSON AND ROGER MARGALLO

OFWs in denim jackets are a common sight in international airports in the Philippines. Why the bias for *maong* jackets?

"They are comfortable," says 26-year-old Anthony Joseph de Leon, who has been assembling car spare parts and packaging food in Japan for three years.

He adds that denim jackets can be used in both hot and cold weather. De Leon arrived in March—in denims, of course—for a visit. "It was slightly cold [in Japan], while it was hot [in the Philippines], but I did not perspire much [in my jacket]," he claims.

Crizaldy Bautista, a 39-year-old seaman based in Saudi Arabia, agrees. "Preferred ang maong dahil hindi masyadong mainit o mabigat," he says.

Both Bautista and De Leon also find the pockets in denim jackets useful.

Denim jackets are not a new fad among OFWs. Edmund Guiruela, 57, was a construction worker in Saudi Arabia from 1984 to 1994. In his biennial trips home during that time, Guiruela always wore a denim jacket.

"*Kahit naka-simpleng T-shirt ka lang, puwede kang humalo sa mga naka-disenteng damit kapag meron kang maong na* jacket. It helps boost your confidence. At the same time, *puwede kang humalo sa mga naka-rugged*," he says.

Guiruela wore his denim jacket when he spent his days-off in a mall. "*Usong-uso yung* denim *e, lalo na yung* Levi's at Lee," he adds.

Amy Serilla, a former domestic helper in Hong Kong, agrees, "Maong jackets never go out of style." The 40-year-old Serilla found denim jackets very useful, especially during the cold season, in her 11-year stint abroad.

Denim is a coarse, twilled cloth commonly used for jeans. It was used mainly for work clothes in 19th-century America, then Western or "cowboy" movies popularized Levi's jeans even outside the United States.

Levi's seems to be still the brand of choice among OFWs despite the entry of several other labels.

Jeddah-based driver and salesperson Joel Patarata, 33, even thinks wearing denim is a Filipino "tradition". "I wear denim jackets deliberately because they is a symbol of my being an OFW," he declares proudly. ***With reports from Karen Tomas, Mabelle Monte, Ysabel Canlas and Sherrilyn Ang, PDI Research interns***

WHETHER coming from (far left) or going to strange lands, the Filipino workers, male or female, fashionably find comfort in all-purpose, confidence-building denim outfits. JESS YUSON

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nepal king pledges to relinquish power

Protests rage on as alliance rejects offer

KATMANDU, NEPAL—NEPAL'S OPPOSITION ALLIANCE REJECTED King Gyanendra's offer to name a prime minister for a new government as tens of thousands of protesters defied curfew orders and marched through the tense capital on Saturday

"We will not accept ... We will continue the protests," Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal, one of the seven parties that is part of the alliance, told a cheering crowd in Katmandu.

Standing on the roof of the home of Girija Prasad Koirala, president of the Nepali Congress party, the leaders briefly addressed the crowd packed into a narrow alley.

"We are here to support you. Don't get weak in the knees. Don't ditch the people," shouted the crowd.

Meanwhile, soldiers on armored vehicles blocked thousands of protesters who were marching in the east of the city.

Tens of thousands of other protesters were marching through the old part of the city, where security forces were heavily deployed.

After more than two weeks of bloody protests and a general strike that has caused a shortage of essential supplies in the capital, the king on Friday announced he was returning executive power to the people, and called on the seven main opposition political parties to quickly name a prime minister.

European ambassadors urged opposition leaders to consider the offer.

"The parties don't think he (the king) has done enough, but we think it is a basis on which we can build and move forward," British Ambassador Keith George Bloomfield said after meeting with the leaders.

The government on Saturday released two senior opposition leaders, a day after they were arrested.

Jhala Nath Khanal and Bamdev Gautam, both of the Communist Party of Nepal, have been important conduits in negotiations with the Maoist insurgents who control much of the countryside. The Maoist rebels are not affiliated with the Communist Party of Nepal. *AP*

A HINDU holy man sits as child runs away from pigeons, in Katmandu April 22. With at least 150,000 protesters filling the streets and with a top envoy warning the government could be nearing collapse, the Nepal's King Gyanendra promises to restore democracy in Nepal Friday showed little sign of mollifying the political opposition. AP

S. Korea, Japan deadlocked over disputed islands

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—SOUTH KOREAN and Japanese diplomats launched a second day of deadlocked negotiations Saturday over a disputed set of resource-rich islets amid the threat of a high-seas showdown.

North Korea meanwhile waded into the mounting row on South Korea's side, proposing the divided neighbors formulate a joint response to Tokyo's territorial claims.

A top Japanese envoy made an emergency trip to the South Korean capital on Friday to try to break the impasse that was triggered by Tokyo's plans to send survey ships into the disputed waters around the islands.

South Korea vehemently opposes Japan's survey plans and has dispatched 20 gunboats to the waters, telling Japan to stay away. Seoul says it is prepared for all contingencies and has warned of a possible physical confrontation if Japan proceeds.

Talks on the matter went late into the night, but Seoul and Tokyo "failed to find common ground," South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said after lengthy discussions with his Japanese counterpart, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi.

Yachi described the initial encounter as "severe."

Yu began Saturday's round saying he would not make any concessions and that the outcome of the negotiations would be "difficult to predict."

The rocky outcroppings—called Dokdo by Koreans and Takeshima in Japan—lie halfway between the countries and are claimed by both. The area is a rich fishing ground and is also believed to have methane hydrate deposits, a potential source of natural gas.

The showdown highlights the rising stakes of rival territorial claims in East Asia, and South Korea's deep-rooted bitterness over Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule.

Communist North Korea—which is technically still at war with rival South because the 1950-53 Korean War ended only in a cease fire—suggested that the two Koreas offer a joint response to Japan's survey plan. *AP*

Hu visit: Small gaffes may overshadow smaller gains

By Joseph Kahn

WASHINGTON—THE CHINESE PRESIdent, Hu Jintao, wound up a four-day visit to the United States on Friday with a foreign policy address at Yale that offered an upbeat vision of Chinese-American ties, as the two sides tried to shake off the lingering effects of protocol blunders during the White House reception for Hu.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington sent a delegation to the White House on Friday to demand a detailed explanation of how an adherent of the Falun Gong spiritual sect, which is banned in China, managed to infiltrate the welcome ceremony for Hu on the South Lawn of the White House on Thursday and heckle Hu for several minutes before being escorted away.

While Hu appeared unfazed by the disruption and continued with his planned events on Thursday and Friday, some analysts said that the security breach might end up heightening the distrust between the nations that the visit had been intended to dispel.

The reception for Hu was further marred when a White House announcer confused the official name of China with that of its archrival, Taiwan, while introducing China's national anthem. Separately, photographs show that as the event ended, President Bush first steered Hu to leave the podium and then, realizing he had done so prematurely, grabbed the Chinese leader by the arm and pulled him back into the proper position.

The protocol problems may have had more resonance than the nature of the small slights would suggest because Hu's visit did not achieve any significant breakthroughs and the Chinese always emphasize careful staging of major political events. *NYT*

LEONEL Garza in an undated family photo. AP

Texas jury awards $32M in Vioxx case

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS—A TEXAS JURY on Friday found that the painkiller Vioxx caused the death of a 71-year-old man who had taken the drug for less than a month, and awarded his family damages of $32 million, which will be greatly reduced by state law.

The verdict in what legal experts had said was a weak case against Vioxx maker Merck & Co. Inc. may raise pressure on the company to start settling some of the 10,000 other cases it now faces, analysts said.

The jury awarded Leonel Garza's family $7 million in compensatory damages for mental anguish and personal loss and $25 million in punitive damages, but the latter will be cut to no more than $750,000 because of a cap imposed by Texas law.

Merck immediately said it would appeal the decision.

It withdrew the $2.5 billion-a-year drug in September 2004 after it said a study found that use of Vioxx for more than 18 months doubled the risk of stroke and heart attack.

Garza died on April 21, 2001, exactly five years ago, after taking Vioxx less than a month for arthritis.

Attorneys for Garza's family had sought more than $1 billion in damages, saying Vioxx caused blood clots that led to a fatal heart attack, but they were pleased with the verdict.

They said Merck lied when it said only long-term use of Vioxx presented health dangers and accused the company of keeping the drug on the market long after learning of its risks because the New Jersey-based company needed the sales.

"This is the first verdict in which short-term use of Vioxx has been found by a jury to be causative of heart attacks. It goes a long way in dispelling this 18-month fiction that Merck has insisted on using in these trials," said lawyer Joe Escobedo. *Reuters*

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Floor Area: 528.00 sqm.
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MALAYBALAY

LOT 2 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 247.00 sqm.
Lot 2352 Prov'L. Road, Casisang
Minimum Bid Price : 148,500.00

LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 753.00 sqm.
Lot 1463 Brgy. Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 96,050.00

LOT 4 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
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Lot 1434 Brgy Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 71,250.00

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WITHDRAWN
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Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00

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Minimum Bid Price : 517,600.00

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Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 6759 (Lot 37), Quezon Ave., North Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 738,750.00

LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 583.00 sqm.
Lot 3554 Brgy. Rd. Base Camp
Minimum Bid Price : 93,600.00

QUEZON

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Lot Area: 36,333.00 sqm.
Lot 3482 Nat'L Highway Palacapao
Minimum Bid Price : 232,800.00

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,118.00 sqm.
Lot 154 Puntian
Minimum Bid Price : 318,500.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 800.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 232.00 sqm.
Lot 940 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 271,800.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 31,700.00 sqm.
Lot 867 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 155,400.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 560.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 228.00 sqm.
Lot 1680 Municipal Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price 584,250.00

LOT 18 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot No. 855 Case 2
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 404.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-B Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 258,400.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 56,117.00 sqm.
Lot No. 564 Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 359,200.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,600.00 sqm.
Lot 1041-D-1-C-1-A-12 & A-13-B Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-B Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-C Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 782.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 239.00 sqm.
Lot 556 Jose Rizal St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 892,000.00

LOT 25 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 12,800.00 sqm.
Lot 1171 Farm Road, Libertad
Minimum Bid Price : 106,000.00

LOT 26 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 41,700.00 sqm.
Lot 1149, Farm Road, Libertad
Minimum Bid Price : 344,000.00

LOT 27 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 6,350.00 sqm.
Lot 1627 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 95,000.00

VALENCIA

LOT 28 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 645.00 sqm.
Lot 677 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 170,400.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 540.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-3-C Subd. Road, Flores Subd. Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 160,650.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot No. 49-P Brgy. Road, Brgy. Bagontaas, .
Minimum Bid Price : 153,000.00

LOT 31 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 300+600= 900.00 sqm.
Lot 79-E-2 & E-1 Brgy. Road, Sugod Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,500.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,302.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 161.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-11-B, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 684,450.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 844.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-2 Subd. Road Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 593.00 sqm.
Lot No. 79-F-4 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

LOT 35 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 20,001.00 sqm.
Lot 102-A Brgy. Rd., Upper Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 208,000.00

LOT 36 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 825.00 sqm.
Lot 47-A-3 Subd. Rd.,Bagonta-As
Minimum Bid Price : 132,000.00

LOT 37 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 59,885.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-L & 2754-A Int. Lot, Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,600.00

LOT 38 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 59,886.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-J Brgy. Rd., Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,600.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 799.00 sqm.
Lot 523 Prov. Rd., Bo. Barangan
Minimum Bid Price : 192,000.00

LOT 40 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 803.00 sqm.
Lot 2549 Brgy. Road, Batangan
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000.00

LOT 41 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 659.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 Subd. Road, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,400.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 749.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-D Nat'L. Hway. Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,067,800.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 748.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-O Nat'L. Hway, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,065,900.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 4 Subd. Road, Juanilla Subd., Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 181,050.00

LOT 45 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Lot [illegible] sqm.
Lot [illegible] Brgy Road, Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,800.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 838.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot No. 179 Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

LOT 47 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 285.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Sayre Hway, Brgy. Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 153,900.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 98.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 12-N-2 Brgy. Road, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 157,500.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 472.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 203.00 sqm.
Lot 2-J, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 895,500.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 778.00 sqm.
Lot 239-I, 239-G & 239-H Nat'L Highway, Purok 3, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 443,050.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 356.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 69.00 sqm.
Lot No. 363 Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 174,750.00

LOT 52 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 993.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A Old Nat'L. Hway. Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 79,200.00

LOT 53 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,453.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-B & 2-A-2-C Old Nat'L. Highway, Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 87,200.00

LOT 54 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,835.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-D, 2-A-2-E, 2-A-2-F & 2-A-2-G Old Nat'L. Hway, Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 176,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 603.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 358 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 374,400.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm.
Lot 336-C Nat'L. Highway, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 801.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 330-0 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 245,600.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 792.00 sqm.
Lot 330-4 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 588.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-4 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagostos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 587.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-5 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagostos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 61 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 37,208.00 sqm.
Lot 21 Brgy. Road, Tugaya
Minimum Bid Price : 379,100.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 209.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 66.00 sqm.
Lot 30-F-2-A-7-C Existing Road, # 3594 Karway St., Yulo Subd., P-13, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 231,200.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 192.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 150.00 sqm.
Lot 214 Mabini St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,809,900.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 343.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Plan Plot No. 106-I-4 Alley, Purok 10, Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 92,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 194-H-1 Municipal Road, # 2574 Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 484,800.00

LOT 66 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 486.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2 M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 949,200.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 206.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4-P-8 Orchid St., Purok 16, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 68 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 55,849.00 sqm.
Lot 455 Barobo
Minimum Bid Price : 418,500.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 196.00 sqm.
Lot 216-G Municipal Road, # 1193 Purok 4, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 594.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 262-B A. Bonifacio St., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,160,900.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 180.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 213.00 sqm.
Lot 330 T.N. Pepito St
Minimum Bid Price : 1,224,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 112.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-B-4 # 4266 Orchid St., P-16A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 514,500.00

LOT 73 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 114.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Brgy. Road & Subd. Road, Purok 13, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 64,500.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 195-L-8-D-1 Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 234,000.00

LOT 75 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 319.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2, M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 881,400.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 519.00 sqm.
Lot 201-C-1 Purok 10, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 7,200.00 sqm.
Lot 226-Ee-17-C Garcia St. Prk 3
Minimum Bid Price : 5,040,000.00

LOT 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 430.00 sqm.
Lot 222-U-9-J Road Lot, Purok 4, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 137,600.00

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 444.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 10, Subd. Road, Sunkiss Vill., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

LOT 80 - AGRILAND WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 16,069.00 sqm.
Lot 28-B Brgy. Rd., Patag, Bagonta-As, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price : 231,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 400.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 192.00 sqm.
Lot 7076 (Lot5560-A) Guinoroyan Road, Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 553,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 602.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 475.00 sqm.
Lot 1123 Alley, M. Fortich St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 836,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 802.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 1686 Old Nat'L. Hway, Dagatkidavao
Minimum Bid Price : 750,000.00

LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 988.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-C-6 Subd. Rd. Bagontas
Minimum Bid Price : 198,000.00

LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-5 Subd. Rd. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 120,000.00

LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 601.00 sqm.
Lot 115-A-12 Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 40,571.00 sqm.
Lot 2-P Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 227,000.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 620.00 sqm.
Lot A-11-C-7-B Brgy. Rd.
Minimum Bid Price : 347,000.00

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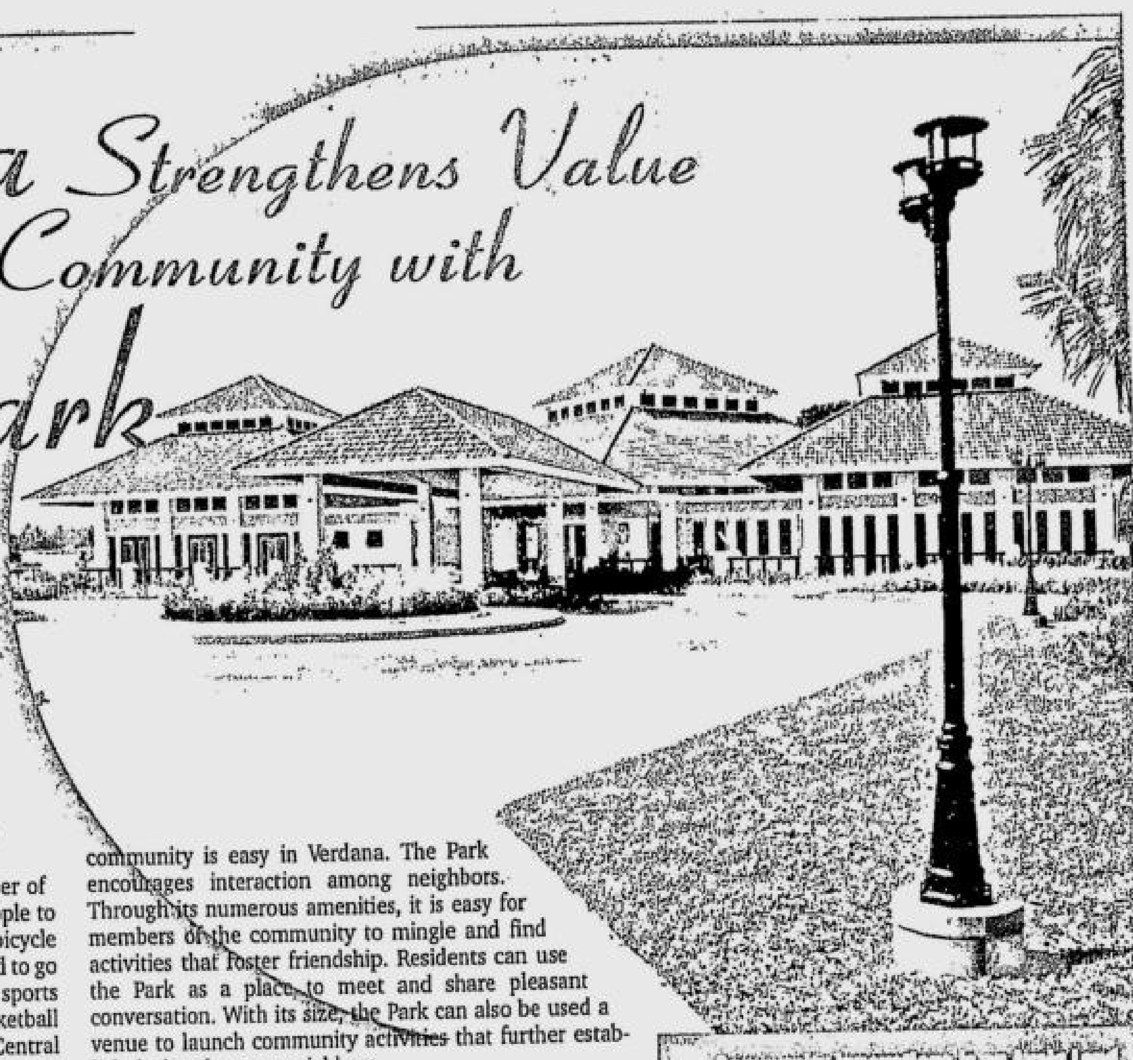
Verdana Strengthens Value of Home and Community with Central Park



Community Innovations, through its residential project, Verdana Homes Mamplasan brings back the value of the home and community to suburban families who travel to the city on a daily basis.

A virtual resort/sport center, the two-hectare Central Park features amenities that allow family members to wind down and have fun sans the backbreaking journey. The Park's deliberate placement in the center of the subdivision makes it accessible from all points of the property. Thus, with a few leisurely steps, homeowners can shake off a week's worth of compounded stress.

The Central Park has amenities that every member of the family can enjoy. It provides a safe space for people to ride their bicycle or do cardio exercises through the bicycle lane and jogging trails. The residents also do not need to go to the city just to take advantage of top-of-the-line sports amenities. Two covered badminton courts, a basketball court and swimming pools are available in the Central Park's Clubhouse Zone.

Young children have a place all their own in the Kids' Zone which features modern play equipment, skating rink, and open playfield. For those who are more into laidback activities, a comfortable chat can be enjoyed at the gazebo, picnic grounds or by the relaxing natural stream that can be found in the vicinity of the Central Park.

The different amenities, which can be enjoyed simultaneously, encourage the members of the family to get involved in activities that they can do together, forging a closer relationship among them.

Establishing friendships and becoming part of the community is easy in Verdana. The Park encourages interaction among neighbors. Through its numerous amenities, it is easy for members of the community to mingle and find activities that foster friendship. Residents can use the Park as a place to meet and share pleasant conversation. With its size, the Park can also be used a venue to launch community activities that further establish the bond among neighbors.

Tucked in the lush surroundings of Laguna, this nature-inspired subdivision allows the family to spend time together even on a regular working day. Verdana is only a fifteen minute-drive from Alabang, and five minutes away from Mamplasan exit, considered as the most convenient access road that bridges Metro Manila and the CALABARZON region. Accessing this thoroughfare significantly reduces travel time. Thus, after spending a day in the urban jungle, residents can conveniently shuttle back to a relaxing home set in unpolluted and secure environs and cap the day with quality time spent with the family.

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In a community of families such as ours, children grow up together

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Dismay, anxiety over crackdown on illegals

MIAMI—ALIRIO LARES, A WAITER IN SOUTH Beach, had been hopeful lately that Congress would grant some form of amnesty to illegal immigrants like him. But after federal officials began a crackdown this week on employers of illegal immigrants, Lares's optimism faltered.

"Where I work, they don't check papers," Lares, 43, who moved from Venezuela 12 years ago, said on Friday. "But of course I am afraid because I am working illegally and I know they can fire me anytime."

In its first days, the crackdown resulted in the detention of more than 1,100 illegal immigrants in 26 states and the arrest of seven managers and former managers of a pallet supply company, bringing praise from groups favoring stricter enforcement of immigration laws but prompting dread and resentment among immigrant workers and some employers.

Alexandra Perez, a mother of three who cleans houses and blow-dries hair in Weston, Fla., said she thought the authorities were trying to intimidate the many immigrants who have closely followed the political debate over their status and watched or joined recent rallies pressing for legal status and citizenship.

"What happened yesterday, I think, is a tactic that they are using to scare us so we don't keep on pushing to get rights," said Perez, 38, who came from Venezuela 10 years ago. She was referring to an announcement on Thursday by Michael Chertoff, the homeland security secretary, that the stepped-up enforcement would continue.

Some employers also criticized Chertoff's plan, under which Immigration and Customs Enforcement will increase the number of worksite enforcement agents and efforts to root out businesses that submit fake Social Security numbers for workers.

"If we didn't have them we'd really be in a bind," Roy Pace, a mechanical contractor in Austin, Texas, said of immigrant workers.

Jamie Zuieback, a spokesperson for the immigration enforcement agency, said that the crackdown was aimed at employers who "egregiously and specifically violate the law," and that the agency believed most employers "do want to follow the law and be in compliance."

Billy L. Heller Jr., chief executive of Pacific Tomato Growers in Palmetto, Fla., said companies were not equipped to verify their workers' status, a task he said belonged to the government, not employers.

"Does this mean I have to have people spend the whole day on a government Internet site double-checking numbers?" said Heller, whose company grows produce in Florida, California, Georgia, Virginia and Mexico. *NYT*

AMERICAN IDOL
Miss Kentucky Tara Elizabeth Connor, 20, competes in the swimsuit contest of the Miss USA 2006 pageant April 21 in Baltimore. Connor won the pageant. AP

Probiotic yogurt aids in getting rid of ulcer bug

NEW YORK—THE STOMACH BUG HELIcobacter pylori is the cause of most stomach ulcers, so doctors often try to eradicate the troublemaker with antibiotic therapy.

When this doesn't work, as is the case 10-23 percent of the time, a yogurt may help, according to a study conducted in Taiwan.

Specifically, eating yogurt containing the beneficial bacteria Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium (AB-yogurt) before trying a second round of combo antibiotic therapy can improve its efficacy in eradicating residual H. pylori, the researchers found.

"The pretreatment can decrease the bacterial loads of H. pylori," Dr. Bor-Shyang Sheu from National Cheng Kung University Hospital in Tainan told Reuters Health. "Therefore, the pretreatment will be helpful to improve the clinical treatment during the application of the second-line therapy." *Reuters*

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Montaña nips Harbour, retains Unity Cup lead /A32
- World champion leads Enerva 9-Ball field /A33
- All eyes on LeBron /A34

Giants escape Aces in Roxas

ROXAS CITY—PUREFOODS BATTLED FROM 11 POINTS DOWN and proved steadier in the stretch to turn back Alaska, 69-64, last night in the PBA Gran Matador Brandy Philippine Cup at the Capiz gym here.

The Giants took a 63-62 edge through Kerby Raymundo going into the last 3:30 of the match and then clamped down on the Aces the rest of the way to eke out the triumph.

"There's nothing I can ask more of Kerby," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio of his player who also had eight rebounds and four blocked shots.

"He was telling me he was really tired, but when I drew up our final play for him, he responded," added Gregorio. "He also thanked me for trusting him in the end."

The victory was Purefoods' seventh in 10 starts, allowing the Giants to peel off a tie with Coca-Cola and move to within half a game of idle San Miguel Beer's 7-2 slate.

The struggling Aces fell to 4-6.

Raymundo finished with 14 points while Noy Castillo added 13 for Purefoods. Alaska was led by the 12 of Reynel Hugnatan and the 10 points each of Jeffrey Cariaso and Nic Belasco.

Meanwhile, a reawakened Talk 'N Text squad faces a serious test against the Beermen, who are out to stretch a six-game winning streak, when they clash today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen came off the Holy Week break with a surgical 117-100 victory over the Air21 Express, a victory that was anchored on Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso, who combined for 49 markers.

"The players are self-motivated," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico. "Right now, they're the ones who really made this streak possible. I don't know what's come over them." *June Navarro*

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs San Miguel Beer
6:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Air21

The scores:

PUREFOODS 69—Raymundo 14, Castillo 13, J. Yap 12, Limpot 8, Yee 7, R. Yap 5, Artadi 4, Pingris 4, Tejada 2, Evangelista 0.

ALASKA 64—Hugnatan 12, Cariaso 10, Belasco 10, Thoss 9, Cortez 8, Wilson 6, Allado 5, Dela Cruz 2, Bajar 2, Laure 0.

Quarters: 22-25, 39-39, 52-55, 69-64.

La Salle ban harsh—Juico

By Francis Ochoa

AS FAR AS THE LEGAL COUNSEL IS CONCERNED, it's too early to tell whether La Salle will use the courts to argue against the suspension slapped on it by the UAAP board.

As far as one of the school's distinguished products is concerned, La Salle shouldn't appeal at all.

Former PSC chair Philip Ella Juico urged La Salle not to contest the one-year suspension slapped on it for fielding—unwittingly as the school claims—two ineligible players in the men's basketball tournament for two straight seasons.

"What for? Sports games are won or lost in the playing field, not in the board or courtrooms," added La Salle's dean of the Graduate School of Business.

Juico is also the manager of La Salle's reigning three-time UAAP women's volleyball champion squad.

Juico, however, called the decision of the board to ban La Salle from all sports for one season "harsh and unfair."

The decision was reached after a six-hour deliberation by the board in Adamson University.

The board, which voted twice to reach the decision, is awaiting La Salle's next move, whether or not to appeal it.

Lito Tanjuatco, who attended the meeting along with Danny Jose, said it would still be up to the La Salle's board of Trustees what action it will take next.

La Salle system president Bro. Armin Luistro hinted that the school could seek relief from the courts earlier.

But Tanjuatco brushed it aside.

"It's too early for that," he said.

The controversy started last year when La Salle found that it had "unwittingly" fielded in two players—Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian—based on fake eligibility papers.

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Paderna, Condes beat opponents

Salven L. Lagumbay

Jun Paderna of the Philippines retained his Pan Asian Boxing Association super featherweight crown with a one-sided unanimous decision over Thai toughie Kularbdang Kiatkrerin in the mainer of the "Rumble at the Bay" Friday evening at the Rajah Sulaiman Park here.

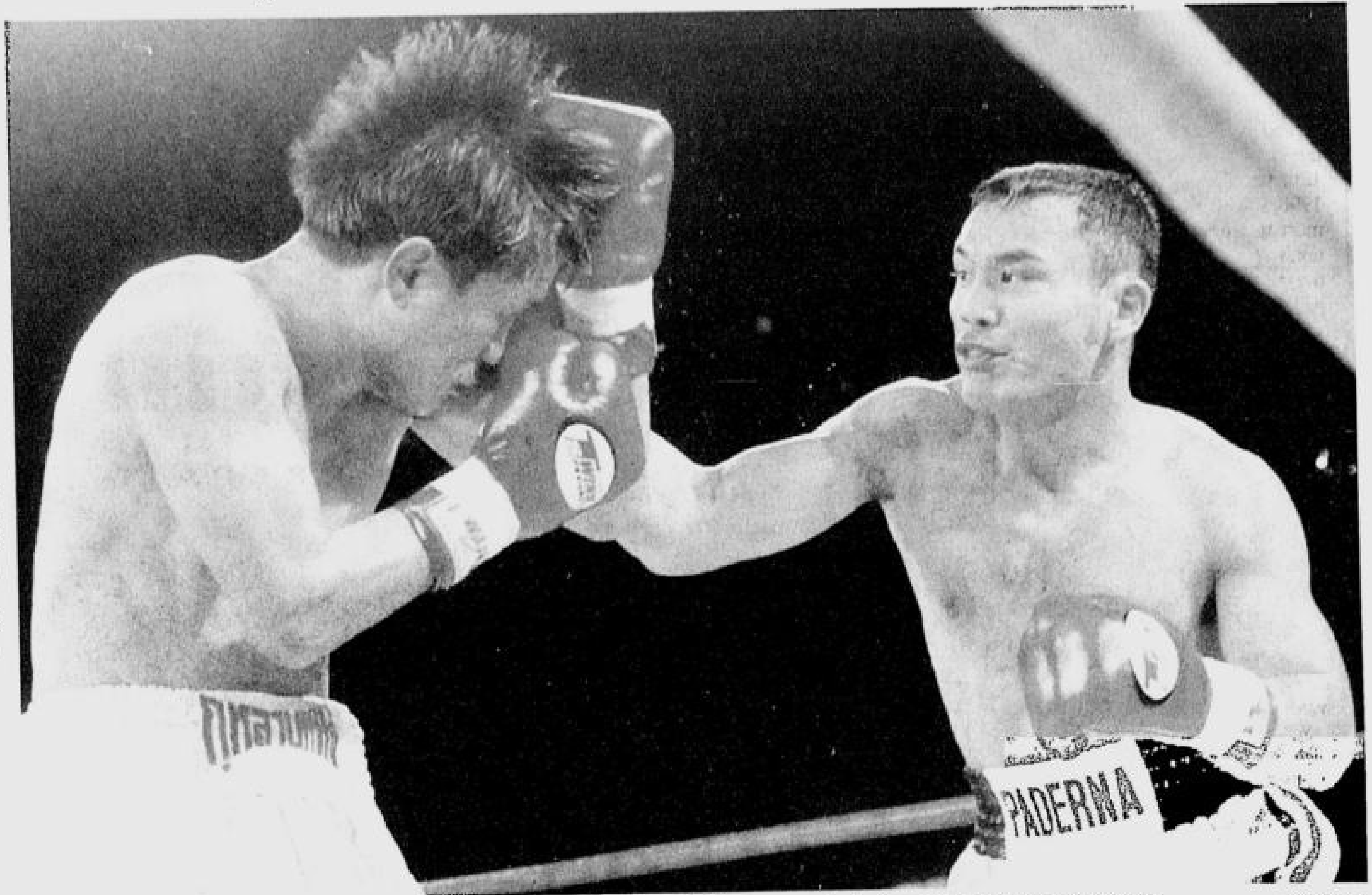
The scores were 120-108 (Gil Co), 119-109 (Salven Lagumbay) and 120-108 (Vir Abainza) in favor of the stocky champ who belongs to the Wakee Salud Stable in Cebu.

The event capped the successful four-day GAB Annual Boxing Convention, the first ever conclave held by the agency under chairman Eric Buhain and commissioners Angel Bautista and Alex Paglumotan.

In the chief support, Florante Condes of the Aljoe Jaro Stable proved his true worth, demolishing ex-WBC International champ Arman De la Cruz in the fifth round to retain his Philippine minimumweight crown.

After three close rounds, Condes suddenly exploded with a big left that sent De la Cruz down for the first time in the fourth, but the challenger came back by staggering the champ with body shots.

In the undercard, Michael Farenas scored a sixth-round technical decision over Jaime Barcelona.



WBA-PAN-Asian Boxing super-featherweight champion Jun Paderna (right) pummels challenger Kularbdang Kiatkrerin. ERIK ARAZAS

Taguig pips Spring Oil; Bacchus wins

TAGUIG CITY—FORMER PRO Marlon Legaspi sparkled in his NBC debut Friday by helping Forward Taguig repulsed Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque, 81-78, in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-National Basketball Conference championship at the C.P. Tinga gym here.

With Marc Victoria taken out of the game after sustaining a nose cut following a mid-air collision with Spring's Mar Reyes midway in the third period, Legaspi took over the chores from the post, scoring eight straight points for a 79-74 edge, 1:07 left.

From there, the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla were able to score only from the stripes, with their last points coming from Marvin Yambao. Louie Abad finished the job for Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig squad, sinking all his free throws before Spring's Mark Yee pegged the final count at the buzzer.

Taguig's second win in three games gave it a share of top spot in the northern division with Tagaytay in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods, Spring Cooking Oil, Firefly Lightings and Prime Channel.

"This game really tested our team's character and teamwork. I owe it to the boys for playing their hearts out," said Taguig coach Danny Gavieres.

Earlier, Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila rolled up its third straight victory after a 0-2 start by downing the Laguna-Sta. Rosa Pistons, 79-69.

Ronjay Buenafe, back after being sidelined for three outings due to a shoulder injury, led all scorers with 17 points.

Mike Nuqui paced the winless Pistons of Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Sta. Rosa mayor Joey Katindig.

Down south, the Ozamiz Cotta woke up in time to nip the North Cotabato Braves, 87-84, at the Gov, Angel Medina Sr. gym in Ozamiz City.

Montaña nips Harbour, retains Unity Cup lead

MONTAÑA PAWNSHOP THWARTED HARbour Centre's gritty comeback in the final five minutes yesterday to score a heart-pounding 69-66 win and cement its hold of the lead in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

On the verge of another collapse, the Jewels leaned on Alex Compton to post their second straight win and sixth overall in seven games as the Davao-based squad closed out its first round campaign on a high note.

Compton canned two pressure-packed charities in the final 15 seconds and then helped the team foil Harbour Centre's last offensive.

While Montaña had to go through the wringer, Rain or Shine's victory over Magnolia Ice Cream was swift and easy.

Behind the inspired plays of Jojo Tangkay, Marvin Ortiguera and Samigue Eman, the Elasto Painters came through with an explosive fourth quarter to turn a close contest into a rout, 63-52.

Rain or Shine gained a share of second place with Toyota Otis at 5-2, while Magnolia dropped to 3-4 in the company of Hapee-PCU and Granny Goose Tortillos.

Ortiguerra topscored for Rain or Shine with 14 points, but it was the 6-foot-10 Eman who provided the highlight of the game - a towering dunk that sent the crowd in frenzied celebration.

The Jewels appeared headed to a runaway win after posting a 62-45 lead early in the fourth. But the Port Masters clawed their way back into the fight.

Held scoreless in the third, Joseph Yeo of Harbour Center recovered and tallied 16 in the fourth, highlighted by three straight triples that moved them to within 66-67 with still 25.1 seconds left.

Harbour Center fell to 2-5.

Games Today
(Olivarez Sports Center, Parañaque)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs TeleTech
4 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Granny Goose

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 69—Vergara 16, Bono 12, Baguion 11, Compton 6, Rodriguez 6, Juntilla 6, Espiritu 3, Guerrero 3, dela Cuesta 3, Magpayo 3.

HARBOUR CENTRE 66—Yeo 24, Tonerio 8, Arana 6, Alonzo 5, Maierhofer 5, Paterno 4, Reyes 4, Coching 3, Gaco 2, Chia 2, Saguindel 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 37-34, 57-41, 69-66.

Second Game

RAIN OR SHINE 63—Ortiguerra 14, Tangkay 11, Malabanan 8, Tan 8, Eman 6, Reyes 6, Urra 2, Sagad 2, Enrile 2, Cabatu 2, Sta. Maria 2, Orbeta 0, Alastre 0.

MAGNOLIA 62—Williams 15, Chan 10, Co 8, Misolas 5, Isip 5, Valenzuela 3, Rizada 3, Santos 2, Barcellano 1, Jones 0, Te 0.

Quarters: 12-17, 32-29, 44-42, 63-52.

Lhuillier backs Nat'l Battle of Champions

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (BAP) chair, businessman-sportsman Michel J. Lhuillier, is extending full support for the National Battle of Champions, which he describes as a big boost to school sports development.

In fact, Lhuillier, through BAP vice president for Visayas Councilor "Yayoy" Alcoseba, has assured BAP president Jose "Joey" Lina that he'll be sending at least two top Visayan teams for the event slated May 14-30.

"This is a big development," said Lina as he extended his gratitude to Lhuillier's vow of support. "Cebu has been a rich farm of future superstars and this will give us a bigger pool of talents for the RP Team once Fiba lifts the suspension of the Philippines."

The BAP continues to work for its reinstatement in the Philippine Olympic Committee, which it claims will lead to the lifting of the world basketball federation sanction on the country.

NCRAA president and chair of BAP Commission for School League Organization Tisha Abundo also welcomed the development, saying that the inclusion of Cebu teams will make the event organized by the Federation of School Sports Associations of the Philippines (Fessap) more exciting.

"Cebu's participation in the event will surely provide a big challenge to Metro Manila-based schools and that will pave the way for a wide open chase for the crown," she said.

The champion team will represent the Philippines in the Thailand Prince Cup tentatively scheduled in October.

The BAP has yet to decide on the host of the said event.

The Ynares Gym in Antipolo City, through Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares Jr., San Juan through Mayor JV Ejercito and the City of Manila through Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza are considered as priority host venues for this major amateur cagefest.

TUASON CUP ACE: Gumercindo Pangan (second from right) shakes hand with Danny Ferguson of Club Car Inc., after receiving a Club Car for scoring a hole-in-one on the 158-yard No. 12 of the Valley executive course during the Don Celso Tuason Centennial Cup. With them are Joey Salindong and Ruel Dalmacio.

Boyaa 57th season begins

THE OLDEST COMMUNITY-BASED BASKETball tournament in the country marks its 57th season as the annual summer league of the Barrio Obrero Youth Athletic Association (Boyaa) kicks off today in Tondo, Manila.

A total of 28 teams in the mosquito, mini-kids, kids and junior divisions have joined the tournament established by former international referee Conrado "Rading" Garcia, who is now based in the United States.

City Hall officials are expected to attend the festivities, which starts with the parade of teams starting at 3 p.m.

Former Trinity College stalwart Alfonso "Boyet" Balacania III was elected recently as president of the association. Other Boyaa officers are Federico Calara (VP), Ric Gozun (secretary), Mandy Roman (treasurer) and Julie Garcia (auditor). Tournament commissioner is Boneng Discipulo.

Golden Link battles locals

By Musong R. Castillo

GOLDEN LINK, AN IMPORTED FILLY ON THE rise, gets her first true test today when she battles multi-titled locals Speed Advantage and Real Spicy in the Philracom Pinoy H-Racing Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

Fresh off a convincing conquest of 2005 imported champion Wild Orchid last month, the 4-year-old progeny of Victory Note out of Fixed Verse is slightly fancied in the 1,450-meter race where the winner goes home with P210,000.

But the hottest bet on the tracks of late has been Real Spicy, the handsome third leg winner of last year's Triple Crown, who will be seeking to win a fifth straight race this season. Louie Balboa rides Real Spicy for the first time in place of Jesse B. Guce.

Jessie B. Hernandez pilots Golden Link, while Fernando M. Raquel Jr. partners Speed Advantage, the Presidential Gold Cup winner last year who has been grappling with Real Spicy for recognition of the best local in the land.

Chariot of Fire (Ronald Baldonido) and Australian import Slatkis (Jeff Zarate) are the others in the lean field. Second place will be worth P78,750, while the third placer wins P43,750.

Real Spicy, conditioned by Jojie Panlilio, actually won three of his last four outings in record time, including the new mark of 1:29 over this distance on this same track.

Speed Advantage, meanwhile, makes his second start as a 4-year-old and he and Real Spicy could more or less provide a preview of what to expect on May 14 in the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup.

Today's featured encounter is a benefit race organized by Pinoy H-Racing, a non-stock, non-profit organization of horse racing aficionados all over the country.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Collective Dreams (2), Wynona Raider (4), Super Top (6), Lovely Tara (8)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Connection (2), Dagger Look (3), Vitality (4), Gone With The Wind (6)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Princess Leighla (1), Panibugho (7), Black Peacock/Golden Majestic (6), Bahrain (2)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Mano Po Magic/Dancer (8), Hezabellagio (6), Silver Cho Cho (7), Juan Marco (1)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Ayan Na Ko/Kay Akino (3), Santiago (5), Ali Ali Ali (2), Baling Ganda (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Take A Strike (8), Well Noted (2), Reason To Believe (1), Valentine Dancer (7), Truly Impressive (9)

Race 7—(Tri)—Real Spicy (5), Speed Advantage (4), Golden Link (3)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Renzio Stays (6), Karma (8), Manila Magic (11), Cara Dura/Dalang Westside (12), U Are My Sunshine (1)

Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—I Remain (2), Gold Collar (7), West 'N Wild (5), Ingay Ingay (9)

Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Dansouse (4), Hellfire (1), Fairy Queen (5), I Love This Game (2)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Empire Lady (6), Awesome Power (5), Reign Of Fire (2), Morning Nell (8)

Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Honoree (2), Lady Tycoon (3), Look Of Love (6), Daldalera/Garbo's Fancy (7)

Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Aminin (14), Chicklet (1), Miss Vicky (8), Ravishing Rally (13), Sincerity (11), War Hero (10)

Bacolod girl takes a shot at RP slot

PICCIO

By Musong R. Castillo

CHUBBY AND BUBBLY, MIA PICCIO IS A 14-year-old who is as cuddly as any girl her age.

But a lot predict she could also be the next best thing to happen to Philippine women's golf.

Instead of playing with dolls and hanging out with schoolmates in malls, Mia decided this summer that she wanted to become something not all girls have had the privilege of experiencing—to make the RP Ladies' golf team.

"She came to me, told me that she would like to give the RP Team a try," dad Boy told the INQUIRER. "I told her that leaving home (to train with the RP pool) was her decision and that she better give it all she has.

"Mia said 'yes, dad, I want to do this. I want to see how far I can go'."

Born and raised in Bacolod, Mia is not with her family for the first time in her young life.

Instead, she is quartered in a villa in Canlubang, Laguna, where the rest of the RP Training pool are staying to train—and train hard—this summer.

An incoming junior at a local Chinese school in Bacolod, Mia's first love was actually swimming in a bid to follow the footsteps of Juan Carlo, the eldest of Boy's three children by wife Gina, who represented the Philippines in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Boy is a member at the Marapara Golf Club in Bacolod, and the golf complex has a pool where Mia used to practice.

"Until one day, after (swimming) practice when she was eight, Mia all of a sudden asked me to take her to the golf course," Boy continued. "After seeing the course for the first time, she told me 'dad, this is what I would like to do. I want to start playing golf'."

Mia has taken Bacolod by storm, emerging as the finest junior talent there in so short a time.

A perennial representative of the Philippines in the world junior golf championships in San Diego, Mia is showing no signs of slowing down.

She gave her home crowd a thrill last September, when she engaged veteran Frances Bondad in a gripping duel for the National Golf Association of the Philippines' version of the RP Women's championship at the Marapara.

Though she came up a little short, the character and skill she displayed in that stage of the match play convinced swing coach and RP Team taskmaster Bong Lopez to offer Mia a slot in the pool.

Quite unusual to ask from a 14-year-old who will be deprived of the comforts of home.

The dearth in the women's ranks of Philippine golf is obvious, with Jayvie Marie Agojo and Bondad the only solid players in the field.

And with the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar just around the corner, Lopez is in dire need of discovering talent worthy of a Philippine uniform in a jiffy.

There are a lot of other names in the pool, including reigning RP Ladies' champion Debbie de Villa, and veterans Anya Tanpinco, Lora Roberto and Carmelette Villaroman.

But it seems obvious that the next best thing will be coming from the junior ranks, de Villa included.

And Mia is also a candidate worth looking out for.

Encounter with Erap

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I JUST SHOOK THE HAND OF the man who, in becoming the 12th president of this republic in 1998, set a record in garnering the most number of votes in our nation's storied political derbies for the presidency. If it were basketball, he was like Wilt Chamberlain, the NBA's all-time leader in point-production.

The handshake happened on April 19, his 69th birthday.

OK, quit guessing. Yes, it was Erap's hand I had shaken.

Big deal.

It was like I had clasped the hand of Wyatt Earp, if not Jesse James, or even Bonnie & Clyde. Celebrities all.

Fame by notoriety or not, that'd still be fame nonetheless. Listen to The Bard once more: A rose, by any other name, would still smell sweet.

You have a cat that catches mice, it won't matter whether it's black or white, decreed the diminutive, cigar-chomping Deng Hsiao Ping.

One needs how many minutes to be considered a klieg light hog?

Sixty seconds would be more than enough, as in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The encounter with Erap, with Tito Sotto, Loren Legarda and Imee Marcos watching, lasted maybe two minutes but it seemed like eternity.

Who was the basketball ball-hog adored worldwide in the Nineties?

Michael Jordan, who else?

In this millennium, there's Kobe Bryant, the ball-hog Laker who escaped a rape trial a couple of years back by the skin of his teeth.

Almost, I had shaken the hand of Kobe Bryant at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, CA in 2004. The rush of mankind killed the chance. The human wave swept Bryant away from me after the Lakers-Clippers game won by the Lakers behind Bryant's 37 points. I drank my sorrows away on tequila and margarita at a nearby bar in the company of Jun Magturo and Tony Sisante. Later that night, I slurped on a bowl of wonton soup cum broccoli flowers in an open-24-hours Chinatown joint named Full House.

"Better luck next time," said Tony Sisante, a diehard Laker fan.

When was the last time I had a handshake with a man standing trial in a case that, if found guilty, could face death by lethal injection? Will there be another Leo Echegaray, the first lethal injectee?

There wasn't a last time.

This one was a first.

And a first, too, is the fact that the handshake was with a man held under house arrest in the last five years.

Six days after he turned 64 on April 25, 2000, Erap was hauled off by police to a life shoved to a total glare of ignominy following his ouster from power by a second, bloodless People Revolt in 14 years. He was booked for plunder, a heinous crime and thus non-bailable.

I remember Rudy Distrito, the basketball rough neck who, like Erap, was once an idol of iconic proportions but would soon also be imprisoned in America on a charge of murdering the lover of his ex-wife in Las Vegas. Distrito's case, like Erap's, remains unresolved.

Now what brought me to Erap on his natal day?

I heard Mass at the same church where 10 priests, led by all-guns-ablaze-aimed-at-GMA Bishop Tobias, had given Erap their blessings on April 19—at St. Peter's Parish along Commonwealth Avenue, Q.C.

I was brought to Erap after the Mass through a friend—a doctor of note who helped repair the knee of the celebrator only a while back. The same doctor had my injured elbow fixed in 1991.

Erap, who looked happy this day amid a usual sea of humanity, was resplendent in his cream *barong tagalog*.

After greeting him, "Happy birthday, Mr. President," he replied, "Happy birthday also to you, fellow 419er."

Between soul-mates, politics, if not beliefs, are taboo.

***

FASTBREAK. Rob Dix, my buddy of 10 years or so who owns the famous Chix Unlimited, celebrates tomorrow. But always the jolly good fellow that he is, Rob, from Beatlelandia that is England, has already served turkey and goat to his friends last night, washed down by beer and red wine from South Africa. The wine, only Rob Dix is capable of producing as he is probably the world's fiercest hunter of vintage wine. Happy birthday, mate!

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

World champ leads Enerva 9-Ball field

WORLD CHAMPION KIM GA-young of South Korea spearheads the crack field seeing action in the 2006 Enerva Ladies' 9-Ball Championship slated April 25-28 at the Robinson's Galleria Mall in Ortigas Center, Quezon City.

AMIT

KIM

Kim, known as the "Seoul Sensation," is towing along compatriot Hyun Ji-won in the event that drew 44 other elite players, including the Philippines' top bet, Rubilen Amit.

By retaining her title in the recent Amway World 9-Ball Ladies' tilt, Kim looms as the heavy favorite in the meet backed chiefly by Enerva Energy Drink for Women and Puyat Sports.

The South Korean ace also won last year's US Open and American Players Association (APA) Championship, catapulting her to No. 1 in the world women's rankings.

Amit is at the vanguard of the RP contingent that also includes Mary Ann Basas, Iris Ranola and Johana Dee.

"I know the going will be tough but we're ready," said the 24-year-old Amit, who made history in the last 23rd SEA Games here when she scooped the two gold medals at stake in the women's division.

Amit, a quarterfinalist in the recent World 9-Ball Championship, added that like her, Basas, Ranola and Dee are all in high spirits and ready to fight.

"The support given us by Mr. Puyat is all out plus the fact that we will be playing in front of our countrymen make us all confident and optimistic." added Amit, referring to the country's chief billiards benefactor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

"I'm surprised by the huge turnout of participants," said Puyat. "This is really an event worth following. Our players are raring to go and the Enerva 9-Ball tilt will be a big test for them considering the best players in the world are entered."

Leading Taiwan's 14-strong delegation is Jennifer Chen and Shin-Mei Liu, while Japan will be led by Akimi Kajatani. Indonesia will be led by Desak Aryati and Nova Rachmawati.

The event will be telecast from April 26 over IBC-13 starting at 7 p.m.

Roxas Blvd. lane closed for AF3

THE NORTHBOUND LANE OF ROXas Blvd. from Quirino Ave. to Pedro Gil St. will be closed to vehicles today starting at 11 a.m. for the street drive being held by the Asian Formula Three Corp. in cooperation with Ginebra San Miguel.

A traffic advisory released by the Manila City Hall, which is backing the event, said all vehicles coming from the Southern part of Manila have to turn right on Quirino Ave. en route to their destinations.

The Roxas Blvd. service road from Del Carmen to San Andres, a stretch from San Andres to M.H. del Pilar and another stretch from Remedios to M. H. del Pilar will also be closed.

Local and foreign drivers will display their skills aboard their Formula 3 cars in the event that starts at 2 p.m. from Quirino Ave. to Padre Faura St. Dubbed the "Ginebra San Miguel Street Drive," it is open to the public.

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama, Golf Power Plus today

FISTORAMA features this afternoon two four-round bouts. Jun Jun Bulcio and John Naimes trade blows in the light flyweight division while Allan Rey Tam battles Joseph Dalayday in the bantamweight division. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Supported by Tanduay, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon, it is aired at 3:30 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus, featuring the 8th Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships, is aired at 3 p.m.

San Marino GP viewing party

THE MILD Seven F1 Club will be holding a viewing party of the San Marino GP at 7 p.m. today at the Aruba Bar, Metrowalk in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Besides a live coverage of the action to be shown on wide screens, trivia contests for F1 fanatics will be held. More fun is in store as F1 pit babes will be selected from among the attendees who will in turn be nominated by the crowd. Original Mild Seven Renault F1 Team merchandise will be given away as prizes. The Mild Seven F1 Club is open to all race enthusiasts 18 years old and above.

Burlington Sporty Summer promo

SPORTS Patron Burlington is holding its "Sporty Summer '06" where kids and adults can play and learn basketball and badminton up to May. Burlington is also launching a special treat for the consumer this summer via its back-2-school… Pick-a-Prize promo. Win cell phones and other exciting prizes in Burlington's promo at participating Robinsons Department Stores (Ermita, Dasma, Galleria, Imus, Pasig, Pampanga, Tutuban, Balibago, Alabang, Novaliches, Filinvest, Los Baños, Bacolod, Ilo-ilo, Sta. Rosa, Pioneer Cebu, Plaridel, Lipa, Nepo Mall and Makati). Every P300 worth of single receipt purchase of any of the following Burlington Industries Phils., Inc. brands of socks—Burlington, Biofresh, Camp, Puma, Bally and Slazenger—entitles a costumer to pick a prize in the Burlington bowl in the selling area. Promo period is from May 1 to June 30. For details, call Nancy at 892-7113.

Salpukan at Makati Wednesday

IT'S THREE more days to go before the much-awaited "Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby," a super cockfest with P4.4 million at stake, blasts off at Makati Coliseum. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Slated on April 26, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13, the event dangles the following guaranteed prizes: P3 million cash, two brand new Toyota cars (Vios and Altis) and two motorcycles. Among those competing on Wednesday are Salpukan I double champion Rey Briones, Boy Marzo, Erwin Mallari, Dome Corpuz, Rep. Baham Mitra, Boy Javier, Butchoy Olano, Emil Chua, Alex Calderon, Luis Tapia, Celso Evangelista, Spencer Group, Efren Canlas and Jingco Brothers. "Entry fee is only P11,000," said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Contact 896-3545 or 895-6475 (Joan or Stephanie).

Roligon Tukaan on April 29

AFTER presenting two smashing derbies at the onset of 2006, promoter Rolly Ligon unleashes another rich cockfest at Roligon Mega Cockpit, billed as Tukaan 5-cock derby on April 29, May 2, 4 and 6. No less than P2 million in guaranteed prize is up for grabs, said Ligon. The fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Toyota Innova. Entry fee is P8,800. Held last February was the 429-entry Roligon Anniversary Derby, followed by the 360-entry Largahan 5-cock derby last month. For the opening round (2-cock) on Saturday, Ligon said that more than 150 participants are seeing action. For details, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 (Jona).

Heritage Cup champ known Tuesday

THE PHILIPPINE Heritage Cup derby series grand champion will be known on Tuesday with the staging of a 5-bullstag one day derby at the Araneta Coliseum. A prize of P400,000 awaits the grand champion while the runner-up gets P100,000. The leading contenders are Baby Canillas (10 points); Danny Ty and William Chia (9.5); Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez and Boy Gamilla (9); Anthony Lim (9); Raul Adan (9); Joseph Chua and Romero Yu (9). Meanwhile, the LGBA "Bakbakan" eliminations (4-bullstag) follows on April 27 also at Araneta. Only Bakbakan-banded bullstags are accepted. For inquiries, call 926-7808 924-5072 or 0920-5851940 (Taz Lunasco).

CHAMPIONS: Mega Chairman's Cup Division champions led by Beneficial-PNB Life's Renato M. Mercado II (right), who fired a low gross 70; Danny Relucio (69, low net), Tami Leung (75, ladies), Farley Ampil (70, class A), Rod Perez (71, class B), and Joe Baltazar (75, class C) with tournament honoree and Mega Group of Computer Companies chair Raffy Garcia (middle) during the award rites of the third edition of the event last Friday at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

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FEDERER: Ahead of schedule AP

Federer feels at home; Nadal hits his stride

MONTE CARLO, MONACO—TOP-RANKED Roger Federer feels he's ahead of schedule in his bid to win the French Open. Rafael Nadal believes he's starting to reach his potential.

Both easily won quarterfinals Friday at the Monte Carlo Masters, dropping only seven games combined, and are one victory away from meeting in Sunday's final.

Federer defeated eighth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain, 6-1, 6-3, in just over one hour, and takes a 5-0 record into his semifinal Saturday against No. 12 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

Defending champion Nadal beat No. 6 Guillermo Coria of Argentina, 6-2, 6-1, in 70 minutes, winning 11 straight games after trailing, 0-2, and next meets 2004 French Open champion Gaston Gaudio.

"I really have the feeling my game is in place very early in the season on clay," said Federer, a seven-time Grand Slam champion who has won every major except the French. "I have the feeling I'm playing a little bit better than last year (on clay),"

Federer cruised to a 4-0 second-set lead in under 40 minutes, before a brief lapse in concentration let his opponent win three games.

"I was playing so well that it was hard to keep it up," Federer said. "I did not finish off some points I should have."

He felt the performance cemented certain improvements in his clay-court game.

"I have more security from the baseline. I am playing more safe, and when I want to play aggressive, obviously I can always do that," he said. "I played excellent today."

Federer improved to 32-1 overall in reaching the Monte Carlo Masters semifinals for the first time, while second-ranked Nadal of Spain extended his winning streak on clay to 40 matches.

After below-par performances in earlier rounds, Nadal considered Friday's victory his "best match of the week" following extra practice with his coach Thursday night to work on his backhand.

"I'm very happy with how I played, it was a complete match," said Nadal. "I got some confidence back. My backhand was not 100 percent today, but it was good."

He faces a tough match against No. 7 Gaudio, who has won three of the five head-to-head meetings with Nadal, all on clay.

"Gaudio is playing very well," Nadal said. "Today he played at an incredible level, especially on his backhand. But I am only thinking of my own game, and of playing well."

Gaudio beat No. 15 Tommy Robredo, 6-1, 6-3, and Gonzalez upset No. 4 Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, 7-5, 6-1. *AP*

Nets thrive under the shadows of the Knicks

BOSTON—THEY ENTER THE NBA PLAYOFFS with their fourth Atlantic Division title in the last five years.

They are trying to reach the Eastern Conference finals for the third time over those five seasons.

They have three of the best players in the NBA in Vince Carter, Jason Kidd and Richard Jefferson.

So why is nobody in New York talking about the New Jersey Nets, who play just across the Hudson River?

You do not need to be a basketball junkie to know that the Knicks losing is still bigger news in New York than the Nets winning.

"When you look at the Knicks, they have a history, they have a tradition, much more so than the Nets," said New Jersey president Rod Thorn. "The Knicks have been a staple of the [New York] metropolitan area forever, since the NBA basically started.

"They've had some great years and they've had some years that haven't been as good but [Madison Square Garden], where it's located, right in the middle of Manhattan, it's known as the mecca of basketball, all your big corporations, or many many of them, are based in Manhattan—so it's a perfect spot to entertain."

The Nets, meanwhile, play over in the Meadowlands, only eight miles (13 km) from Madison Square Garden but outside the New York City spotlight.

For now, the Nets, who are about to face the Indiana Pacers in the first round of the NBA playoffs, are under-appreciated, regardless of what they accomplish on the floor.

The Nets are selling more tickets than before, but they cannot buy media attention. The same goes for the New Jersey Devils, who win Stanley Cups but remain in the back seat to the Rangers.

"We're trying to do everything we can to gain as big a niche as we possibly can, but the Knicks have been there forever," said Thorn. *Reuters*

All eyes on LeBron

'King James' leads Cavs' playoff bid

CLEVELAND, OHIO—LEBron James has finally led the Cleveland Cavaliers into the National Basketball Association playoffs, the team's first post-season appearance since 1998.

Now the 21-year-old playmaker will try to lift the long-suffering Cavaliers beyond the first round for the first time since 1993, when Cleveland and Washington begin their best-of-seven opening-round series here Saturday.

James ranked third in NBA scoring with 31.4 points a game while also contributing 7.0 rebounds and 6.6 assists, 12th-best in the league.

"King James" was only eight the last time the Cavaliers won a playoff series. He lifted a Cavaliers team that was 17-65 the season before his arrival to 35-47 as a rookie and 42-40 last season, just missing a playoff spot.

This season, the Cavaliers went 52-20—their best record in 13 years—and James will not need to turn on a television set to see the NBA playoffs.

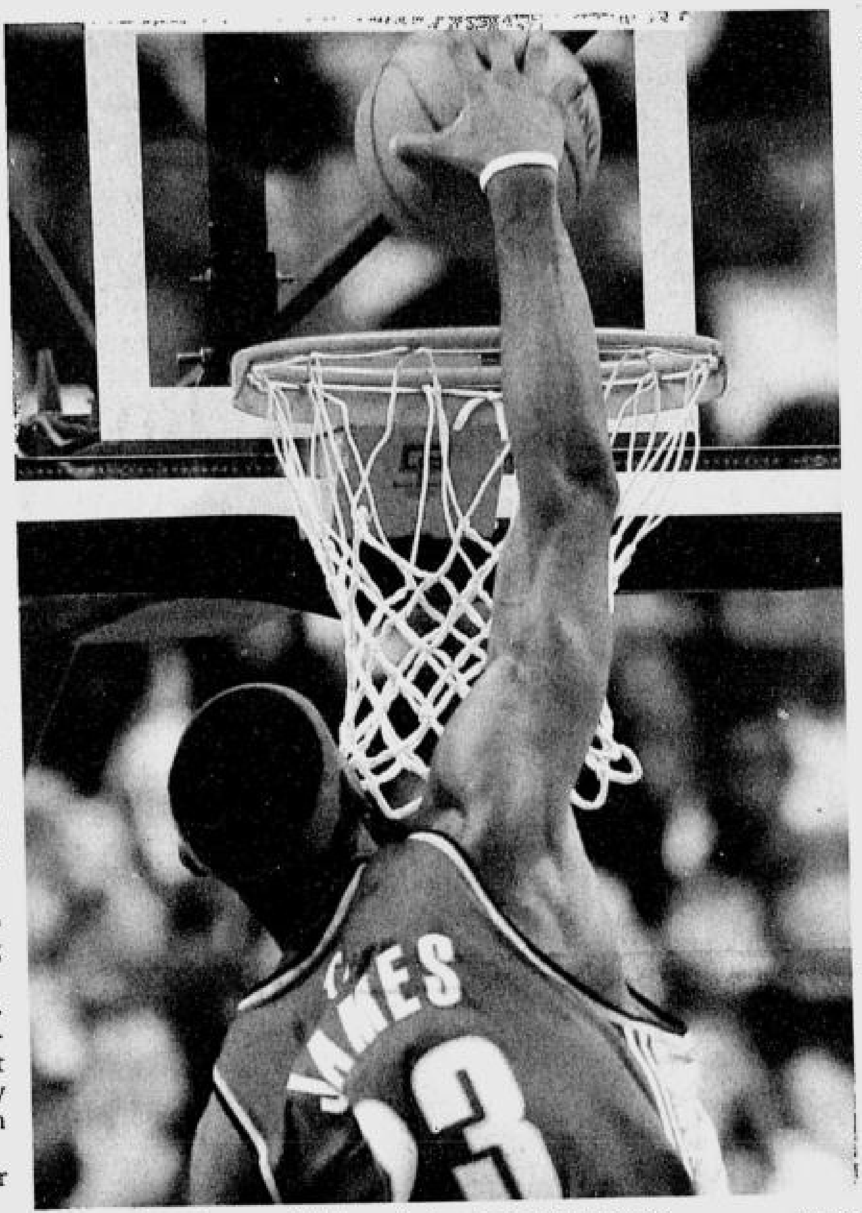
"It was tough to watch the first two years," James said. "I won't be watching this time. I will be part of it."

James figures to be a major part of it. The Cavaliers' game is a nationally televised showcase matchup, and that's not because the Wizards have excited many people in a 42-40 campaign, although they took three of four from Cleveland.

"He's going to be a real challenge for us," Washington's Caron Butler said.

Wizards star Gilbert Arenas, who ranked just behind James in NBA scoring at 29.3 points a game, expects James to be dangerous even though he is a playoff newcomer.

"He didn't have any jitterbugs in the first game he played in the NBA so I don't think he'll have any jitterbugs in his first playoff game," Arenas said. *AFP*



CLEVELAND'S hopes will ride on the back of LeBron James. REUTERS

NBA on TV:

SOLAR SPORTS—Denver vs LA Clippers (10:30 a.m.)

RPN-9—Denver vs LA Clippers (10:30 a.m.); Chicago vs Miami (9 p.m.)

NBA greats pose great test—Chot

CHOT REYES IS EXCITED, NOT ONLY BEcause of the chance of playing former National Basketball Association greats, but for the opportunity to test how far Pilipinas Basketball has come to achieving the goals it set out to do.

The firebrand mentor, tasked with bringing back Philippine basketball to its lofty standing of several decades back, knows that his game in The Bad Boy Tour on May 1 will be a tough test, but welcomes it at the same time.

"It mirrors international competition to a large extent," Reyes said. "We will be playing big, talented players in a one-game scenario—you can't get any international than that."

Reyes assembled a big, fast and experienced team to clash with the Dennis Rodman-led NBA All-Stars on Monday at the Araneta Coliseum, anchoring his inside game on Asi Taulava and Nic Belasco and his perimeter game on Jimmy Alapag and Ren-Ren Ritualo.

"It's an important game because we can gauge how far we have gone as far as playing internationally is concerned," Reyes added. "The players (NBA Greats) are still in shape and we know that. It's going to be a good game."

Don Allado and Mike Cortez of Alaska, Rafi Reavis of Coca-Cola, Rommel Adducul of Barangay Ginebra, Willie Miller of Talk 'N Text and Magnolia of the Philippine Basketball League standout Kelly Williams are the other members of Pilipinas Basketball.

"These players have been working out together for a long time now," Reyes said.

Reyes is also wary of the NBA Developmental League players that organizing West End Sports president Mario Whitmire will be bringing over to reinforce the likes of Rodman, Darryl Dawkins and Hall-of-Famers Alex English and Calvin Murphy.

D-League standout Kareem Reid, a high-scoring 5-foot-11 guard of the Arkansas RimRockers, heads that list, which includes a handful of other slam-dunk artists who could well land a job in the NBA in the very near future.

Tickets for the Big Dome game can be bought at all TicketNet outlets at telephone number 9115555. Tip-off for the May 1 game is 5:30 p.m.

Schumacher, Alonso brace for face-off

IMOLA, ITALY—THE SAN MARINO GRAND Prix could be in for another Fernando Alonso-Michael Schumacher duel.

Defending Formula One world champion Alonso led the seven-time winner in the second practice session Friday for the San Marino GP.

A year ago, Alonso beat Schumacher by 0.2 seconds at Imola after dueling over the final 12 laps to win one of the closest races in years. The difference Friday was only slightly larger—0.328 seconds.

Alonso said his car was hindered by a lack of grip and under-steer.

"I think we are quick as well, but as always the times on Friday don't mean too much," the Spaniard said. "If we can make some good changes tonight, though, I think we will be in a strong situation for the race."

Alonso clocked 1 minute, 25.043 seconds with the session nearly finished. Schumacher then timed 1:25.371 on his final lap around the Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit.

Two test drivers — BMW-Sauber's Robert Kubica and Honda's Anthony Davidson — followed in third and fourth positions.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, Felipe Massa, was next in fifth position, followed by Alonso's fellow Renault driver, Giancarlo Fisichella, in sixth place.

Fisichella was driving Renault's new B-spec engine, which provided higher revs than Alonso's engine. Alonso is scheduled to start racing with it in two weeks at Nurburgring.

Ferrari is also introducing changes this weekend, with aerodynamic and engine improvements for both cars.

"We have made progress in various areas and even if they are only minor things, all put together they have produced a good step forward," Schumacher said. "The whole package is working better and therefore the car is quicker."

Toyota's Jarno Trulli was seventh, while McLaren's Juan Pablo Montoya (ninth) and Kimi Raikkonen (11th) were split by Honda's Jenson Button in 10th place. *AP*

THE PHILIPPINES' Frankie Miñoza warms up before he tees off on the first hole during the third day at the Asian Open golf. REUTERS

Stenson hangs on by one; Miñoza stumbles with a 76

SHANGHAI—HENRIK STENSON CRAWLED out of bed early Saturday to par the 18th hole and take a one stroke lead into the third round of the rain-interrupted BMW Asian Open Saturday.

The Swedish star was left with a 10-foot birdie putt on the last hole when lightening and rain brought the second round of the $1.8 million-tournament to an early close Friday with 42 players still on the course.

Filipino Frankie Miñoza stumbled with a 76, firing five bogeys, one double bogey and three birdies that put him in a 9-way tie for 19th place, seven shots off pace with a 217 total.

Stenson returned to miss the birdie opportunity on a bleak wind-swept day at the Thomson Shanghai Pudong Golf Course Saturday to be one shot ahead of Paul Lawrie of Scotland and a pack of four golfers a further stroke behind.

Last year's European Order of Merit winner Colin Montgomerie, who was also left stranded on Friday, completed his two final holes in par Saturday to be one over for the tournament and four behind Stenson.

China's top hope Zhang Langwei caved in to the pressure of playing in front of a home crowd and missed the cut by three shots, joining Nick Faldo and Asian Tour stalwart Thongchai Jaidee on an early plane home. *AFP*

NATURAL CHARITY

Webb nears leaders; Rosales shoots 67

STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA—IF ANYONE thought Karrie Webb's victory in the LPGA's first major of the year was just a fluke, think again.

She's picking right up where she left off.

Following up her win in the Kraft Nabisco Championship, Webb shot a second straight 5-under-par 67 Friday and was only two shots off the lead at Eagle's Landing Country Club, Atlanta.

"I feel like I can go out there and really just trust it because I sort of got that monkey off my back," Webb said. "I can just go out there and do what I did for four rounds at the Nabisco."

Sung Ah Yim charged to the top of the Florida's Natural Charity Championship with a 64, pushing her 36-hole total to a 12-under 132. Two fellow South Koreans were right on her heels: 20-year-old Jee Young Lee was 11 under after a 65, and Hee-Won Han, who was tied with Webb at 134.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales came alive with a 67 and moved to within six strokes of the lead with her 138 total.

Han had seven birdies on the front side for a 29, but couldn't keep it going after the turn. Still, she signed for a 64 that equaled Yim for the best round of the day.

Defending tournament champion Annika Sorenstam was right in the thick of things with a 69 that left her three strokes back. But she's unlikely to run away from the field as she did in 2005, when she coasted to a 10-stroke victory that was essentially clinched by Saturday.

Se Ri Pak dropped out in the middle of the 16th hole because of a sore back.

Webb, the only player other than Sorenstam to be ranked No. 1 in the world over the last 11 years, is coming off a thrilling victory in the Nabisco. She holed out a wedge from 116 yards to get into a playoff, then beat Lorena Ochoa for her seventh career major title.

After a three-week break in which she traveled back to her native Australia, Webb showed she's not jet-lagged in the least. She missed a couple of short putts, took her only bogey of the day on the par-5 13th, but still matched her score from the opening day.

"I feel like I'm seeing my shots better and clearer, probably because I have a little bit more of a belief now that I can do it," she said. "It's easy to picture the shots and I can pull them off."

Webb didn't have that sort of confidence a year ago. She failed to win for the first time since joining the tour and slumped to 27th in the rankings, quite a comedown from her heady days as the LPGA's most dominating player.

She appears to have sorted out her problems. Webb's irons homed in on the flag, leaving her five birdie putts that were no longer than 8 feet. She could have gone even lower, missing a 5-footer at the par-5 13th—her lone bogey—and a birdie try from about the same distance at No. 16.

Sorenstam had plenty of chances, but didn't take advantage of them. She bogeyed her third hole of the day, then settled into a steady routine: a birdie here and there, the rest pars. She was tied at 9 under with rookie Brittany Lang, who shot 67.

Thursday's co-leaders both faded badly. Maria Hjorth was eight strokes higher than her opening 65, leaving her six shots behind Yim. *AP*

NATALIE Gulbis trails by four. REUTERS

La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic May 15-16 at Canlubang

ANOTHER EXCITING DUAL MEET looms in this year's La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic as hundreds of golfing alumni and students of both schools compete on May 15-16 at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

The competition format for the annual event presented by PLDT and Smart Communications is being retained with points allotted for the top four finishers in eight categories.

Players will be vying for the top places in the championship class for those with handicap indexes of 0 to 3.8, Class A for 3.9-10.7, Class B for 10.8-16.4, Class C for 16.5-23.5 and Class D for 23.6 and up among the men, as well as the Open, ladies and seniors (55 years old and above) divisions.

The Open category will be for those with no club certified handicaps.

Schedule of play will be Class B and Open at the south course and Class D and ladies at the north on Monday, May 15 and championship and Class A at the north and Class C and Seniors at the south on Tuesday, May 16.

The awarding ceremonies will be held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club on May 16.

Entry fee is P2,500 for non-Canlubang members and P1,300 for members. Interested players may inquire from their respective alumni offices.

Deadline for registration is on May 8 and walk-in participants will be entertained on a first-come-first-served basis depending on the availability of slots.

Points in the championship class will carry more weight as the winners gets 10, second 6, third 4 and fourth 2 while the rest of the divisions will have a 5-3-2-1 points scheme.

All divisions except for the Open category, which shall use the System 36 format, shall be handicap play.

Southwoods nips Riviera in playoff

MANILA SOUTHWOODS PULLED off another playoff victory recently, knocking out second-seeded Riviera to advance to the finals of the Ladies Federation League.

Southwoods banked on the heroics of Claudine Garcia and Tere Arevalo anew to deny Riviera after the home-and-away semifinal duel of both Cavite teams ended in a 3-3 tie.

Southwoods, which defeated Tagaytay Highlands in the quarterfinals, will face Wack Wack in the finals this coming week.

Wack Wack, returning to action after sweeping its seven elimination matches that earned for the Mandaluyong-based ladies one of the two automatic semis slots, stretched their winning streak to eight by dominating Alabang.

Wack Wack started with a 2-1 win at Alabang on victories by Katya dela Cruz-Claudette Santiago in aggregate and Bing Liboro-Nicole Serapio in high-low. It came back the next day to hack out a 3-0 sweep again through the efforts of Liboro-Serapio, dela Cruz-Santiago and Liza Lopez-Charlene Abalos (alternate shot).

Alabang reached the semis of the tourney organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines and supported by Johnnie Walker by beating Forest Hills.

BADMINTON EXPO: Rene R. Reinoso (second from left), INQUIRER SVP for Sales and Marketing, cuts the ceremonial ribbon to open the INQUIRER Badminton Expo, the country's biggest badminton sale yesterday at The Rockwell Tent. Joining him are, from right, PDI product manager Hazel Soriaga, PDI AVP and marketing director Jocel Arboleda, Kimoni Phils. president Billy Lim-it, Toby's Sports president Bobby Claudio, Gosen director Anil Buxani, Mizuno Phils. president Lovell Gopez and INQUIRER Badminton editor Jong Arcano. The Expo, participated in by distributors of the biggest brands, ends today.

All-Star winners get cash

AN ADDED INCENTIVE AWAITS ALL INDIVIDUAL winners, including the Most Valuable Players (MVP) of the two featured games in the 2006 Hope PBA All-Star weekend.

Other than the bragging rights, cash prizes will now be handed out in the annual classic in an attempt to up the ante in the slam dunk, three-point shoot-out, obstacle challenge, trick shot and shooting stars side events, the Blitz Game (Rookies vs Sophomores) and the centerpiece match pitting the North against the South.

A total prize purse of P250,000 is at stake in the April 27-29 hoopla.

"We're adopting this innovation to make this year's All-Star weekend more exciting and competitive in nature," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. The event, being hosted by Misamis Province for the first time, is also presented by Xtreme Magic Sing and Welcoat Paints.

Talk 'N Text playmaker Jimmy Alapag is back to defend his three-point shoot-out title, so is Topex Robinson of Red Bull (obstacle challenge), Paolo Hubalde of San Miguel (trick shot) and Air21's Nino Canaleta (slam dunk).

Making its initial foray in the All-Star extravaganza, also supported by Sunbolt fun drinks, Chowking, Mentos, Accel and Air21, is the shooting stars competition.

Instead of players from different eras teaming up, the league's version will have an active player, a celebrity and a Local Government Unit (LGU) official playing together as a team.

Peñalosa-Muñoz in Pacquiao card

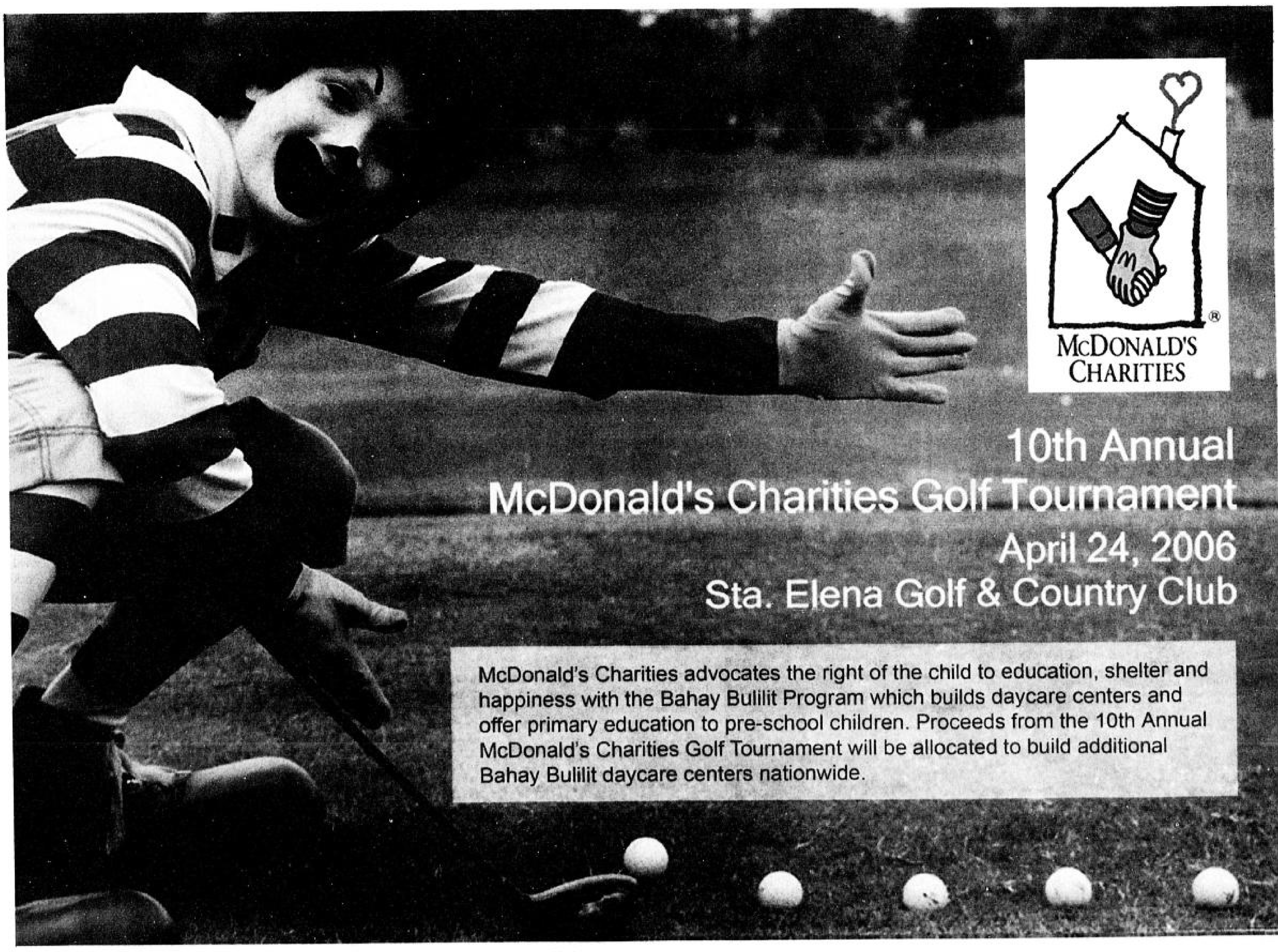
FORMER WORLD BOXING COUNCIL super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa will now take on former World Boxing Association super flyweight boss Alexander Muñoz in a battle of two explosive bangers underneath the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios scrap on July 2.

Peñalosa, in an interview at the recent GAB Annual Boxing Convention, said he was expecting an exciting bout against Muñoz considering the knockout record of the Venezuelan who is known as "El Explosivo."

The bout will serve as the chief undercard to Pacquiao-Larios with organizers planning to make the Peñalosa-Muñoz battle a 12-round affair.

In his last fight, Muñoz (28-2, 26 KOs) almost toppled WBA super fly champ Martin Castillo, knocking down the latter early in their fight before losing on a split decision underneath the Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch last Jan. 21 in Las Vegas.

Peñalosa, the reigning World Boxing Federation super fly champ, holds a 49-5-2, 33 KOs card and is coming off a unanimous decision win over Feliciano Dario Azuaga of Paraguay last Dec. 10. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



McDONALD'S CHARITIES

10th Annual
McDonald's Charities Golf Tournament
April 24, 2006
Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club

McDonald's Charities advocates the right of the child to education, shelter and happiness with the Bahay Bulilit Program which builds daycare centers and offer primary education to pre-school children. Proceeds from the 10th Annual McDonald's Charities Golf Tournament will be allocated to build additional Bahay Bulilit daycare centers nationwide.

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Malaysia joins RP Open badminton

POWERHOUSE MALAYSIA AND Hong Kong lead 12 countries which have re-confirmed their participation in the first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships presented by PLDT Business Solutions on May 24-28 at the Philsports Arena.

The $120,000 event, the first-ever four-star tournament sanctioned by the IBF (International Badminton Federation) to be held here, is expected to lure not only the region's finest players but other stars from Europe and the Americas as well.

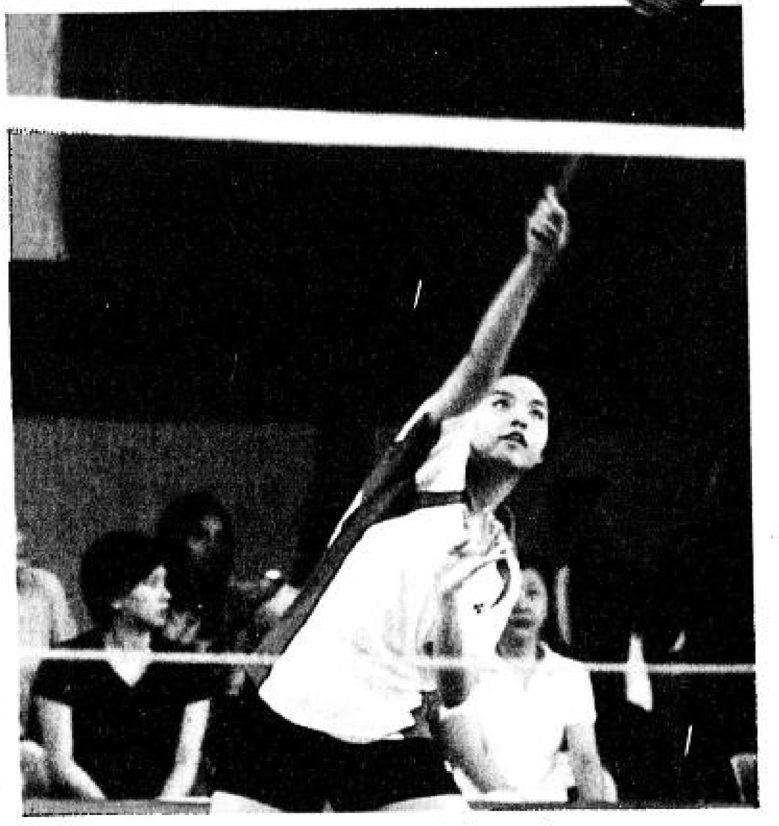
The other teams that have signed up for the event, sponsored by Bingo Bonanza, JVC, PLDT and Smart, are Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Chinese-Taipei, Canada, Austria, England, Singapore and India.

The event is expected to attract the likes of women singles players Wang Chen of Hong Kong, the world's No. 3; No. 8 Kaori Mori of Japan and No. 11 Cheng Shou Chen of Taiwan.

The men's side is likely to feature Korean Lee Hyun-il, ranked No. 5 in the world, No. 7 Hafiz Hashim of Malaysia, Ng Wei of Hong Kong, and world No. 2 Chong Wei, also of Malaysia, back-to-back titlist in the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Badminton Championships.

Tickets purchased earlier will still be honored for the new event dates, according to IMG. Tickets for the new playdates are available at all Ticketworld outlets and are packaged in the following categories: May 24-26 Category 1 (P200); Category 2 (P150); Category 3 (P100); Category 4 (P50); Gallery (P10); May 27-28 Category 1 (P500); Category 2 (P350); Category 3 (P250); Category 4 (P150); Gallery (P20).

For details, call 891-9999, get online at: www.ticketworld.com.ph or contact the PBA, Badminton Hall, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila c/o Joel Mabborang at 926 5973222 or send e-mail to joebm_13@yahoo.com and aglipay@globequest.com.ph or log on to www.philippineopenbadminton.com.



LIZA Encarnacion of Golden Shuttle Foundation reaches out to score against Monica Yupangco en route to winning the juniors' singles crown in the Pampanga leg of the JVC Regional Badminton Championships recently.

SM Storyland Junior Camp starts April 29

CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER Metro Manila have signed up for the SM Storyland Junior Badminton Camp, a two-phase summer activity for both beginners and advanced players, starting on April 29-30.

The April 29-30 schedule will be the first clinic to be held at the SM Southmall on April 29-30 followed by the second clinic at SM Fairview on May 6-7. The competitions will be held on May 13-14 at SM Southmall and May 20 at SM Fairview.

Only those who attended the clinics will be eligible to join the tournament.

The camp is a project of SM Storyland in partnership with INQUIRER Badminton, Kimoni Philippines, Gerflor Taraflex and Dunlop. Priority is given to members of SM Storyland Clubbies from ages 5 years old to 12.

First 40 registers for free while the next 40 may register for P280 with a free ride all you can pass to SM Storyland.

To register, visit the the SM Storyland Club Office at SM Southmall and SM Fairview with an authenticated copy of birth certificate and a 1"x1" photo. For inquiries, call 8000614 or 9380506.

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RP chess bets start Olympiad training

TAGAYTAY CITY—WITH LESS THAN A MONTH before the first move is made, the Philippine men's and women's chess teams recently started rigid training for the 37th World Chess Olympiad, confident of a strong showing in the biennial event set in Turin, Italy.

"Even with the limited time that we have, we are confident that we can come up with a decent showing," said Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, the men's coach, in Filipino. "Stamina will play a major role in the Olympiad, that's why we are preparing our players both physically and mentally."

Members of both teams are being made to do road work here early each morning before taking "raj yoga" meditation sessions in the afternoon, under Sister Lourdes Aseneta, to help sharpen their minds.

The Olympiad is set for 14 rounds from May 19 to June 5 with Ukraine as the defending champion.

The Philippines will be seeking to improve on a 12th place finish in the 2004 Olympiad in Mallorca, Spain, using a team led by GMs Eugene Torre and Mark Paragua.

GM Joey Antonio is the other seeded member of the team with Oliver Dimakiling, reigning National Open champion Darwin Laylo and 12-year-old whiz kid Wesley So making the squad through qualifying.

The women's squad, on the other hand, aims to improve on a top 40 finish in 2004 with a team composed of Olympiad veterans Sheerie Joy Lomibao and Beverly Mendoza and rookies Catherine Pereña and Sherily Cua.

Cesar Caturla is the women's coach.

Tagaytay City mayor and National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general Bambol Tolentino is hosting the training of the Nationals here under the auspices of the chess body headed by Surigao del Sur Rep. Butch Pichay Jr.

After the training here, the teams go to Baguio for the next phase of their preparations.

NM Marlon Bernardino

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V-LEAGUE

Lady Falcons open up strong

GAMES TOMORROW *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs. Lyceum
6 p.m.—La Salle vs. San Sebastian

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHERRY ROSE MACATANGAY GAVE Adamson a huge lift and the Lady Falcons opened up their Shakey's V-League campaign with an impressive 25-14, 25-20, 25-20 victory over Philippine Christian University yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Macatangay came through with 24 points to almost single-handedly overcome PCU, which could not get its act together except for a brief spurt in the third set where the Lady Dolphins even led at 20-15.

But Jill Gustilo, subbing for spiker Rissa Jane Laguilles, dealt the telling blows for the Lady Falcons by making five straight service winners—unleashed fast, sharp and just a few inches above the net—to fuel Adamson's fiery windup.

From that five-point deficit, Adamson scored 10 unanswered points with national team player Rubie de Leon and Macatangay contributing the other markers not scored by Gustilo.

"I knew that the wise thing to do was change players at that moment," said Adamson coach Minerva Pante. "This victory could start something big for us."

Laguilles contributed nine points, while De Leon added eight for Adamson, which is seeing action in the tournament for the first time.

The Lady Dolphins relied on Arlene Bernardo's attacks that yielded six points. But PCU looked totally lacking in cohesion as they failed to stop Adamson's frontline that produced a barrage of points in the endgame.

Amelia Guanco also had six points for PCU, while Mary Grace Magtibay had five points.

Another substitute, Kristine Ann Dave, contributed six points for Adamson, while Jaqueline So chipped in four points.

Ateneo prevails

THE ATENEO DE MANILA BRONCO (AGES 11-12 years old) Baseball Team won the Philippine Tot Baseball League Bronco Division via a sweep, winning the regular season, school, division titles.

The same team represented Quezon City and won runner-up honors in the Boys' Division in the NCR Baseball Championships.

The Team is composed of Gino Aganon, Noel Araneta, Justin Castro, Charles Catangui, Pepe da Silva, Miko Habana, Bryan Operario, Gab Pablo, Enzo Palacios, Lorenzo Ramos, Miguel San Juan, Jon Santiago, Miggy Santos, Patrick Santos, Miguel Tan and Carlo Villarin.

The Dizer brothers—Randy, Anthony, Bubut and Buboy stirred these young men to victory with the able support of team managers Diane Ramos and Joey San Juan.

UPH-Laguna, Valenzuela lead girls volley winners

UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL Help-Laguna and Valenzuela National High School took different paths before beating their respective rivals at the start of the 2006 Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League (GVIL) at the Blue Eagle gym in Quezon City.

UPH-Laguna blanked Imus Institute High School, 25-12, 25-14 while Valenzuela NHS outsteadied Prenza, 25-22, 11-25, 25-14, to lead opening-day winners in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and Toby's Sports.

Leading the charge for UPH-Laguna of coach Jay Deroquito were Aizon Gumba, April Retamar, Jennelyn Belen and Thea Lagumbay.

Valenzuela NHS, handled by Laurence Sedilla, got superb performances from Jhenny Escalora, Alyssa Geronimo and Maryshiel Falla.

In the third game, St. Joseph High School overwhelmed Makati Gospel Christian Academy, 25-20, 25-14.

Kegfest stakes P3M

A PRIZE POT WORTH P3 MILLION PLUS trophies are up for grabs in the six-leg bowling National Invitationals and Open Championships that started yesterday at the Market Place in Mandaluyong City.

Inez Magbual, president of the Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council, said the second leg of the meet will run up to April 30.

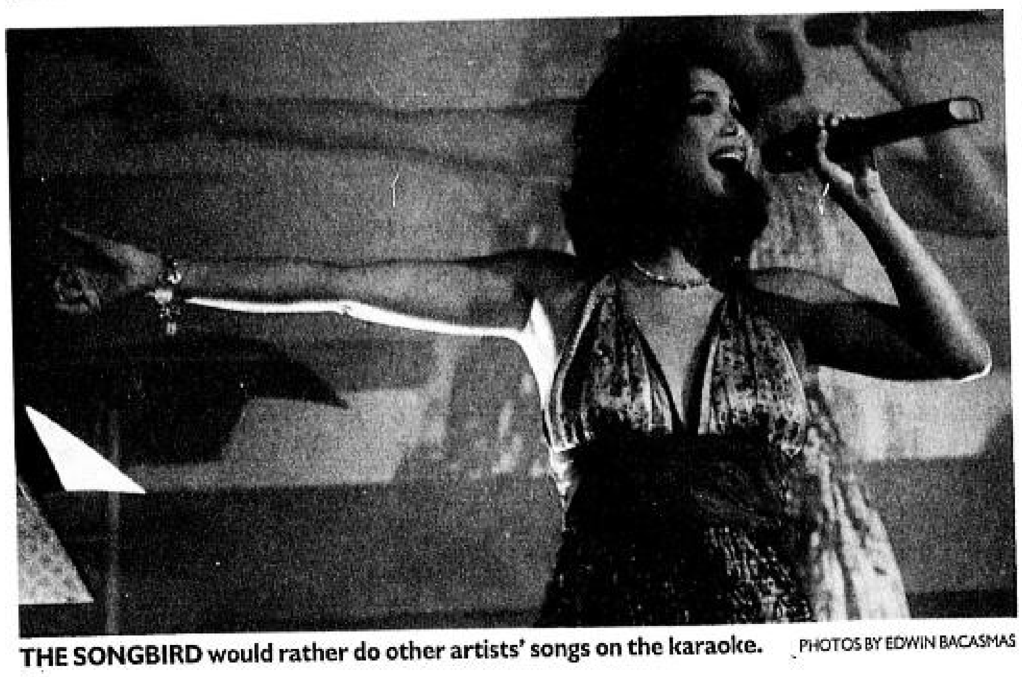
The first leg of the series, dubbed "The National Open," was played from Jan. 21 to 30 in Iloilo City.

Magbual bared the other legs of the meet during the PSA Forum at the Pantalan restaurant in Manila last Tuesday.

The National Open Championships, the third leg of the series, will be held in San Fernando, La Union from June 7-13.

Magbual said about 1,000 bowlers are expected to compete in the remaining five legs.

MERCEDES BACKER: Cathay Pacific Airways Country manager-Philippines Vivian Lo and Cats Motor Inc. president Felix Ang shake hands after signing the contract making Cathay Pacific a co-presenter, with Smart Infinity, of the MercedesTrophy Philippines 2006 tournament set May 15 at the Santa Elena Golf Club course. With them are Cathay's assistant marketing manager Jan Charmaine Agoncillo and Cats Motors' adviser to the board Cesar Virtusio.



THE SONGBIRD would rather do other artists' songs on the karaoke. PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Regine: I thought I was going to jail

By Marinel R. Cruz

IF MY CASE HELPS THE GOVernment's campaign to chase after tax evaders, I don't mind this," said singer Regine Velasquez of her ongoing problem with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. "I'm aware that there are people out there who are remiss in their responsibilities. We should all do our share. Our country need this campaign."

Regine was referring to the BIR's "Run After Tax Evaders" program (RATE), which seeks out tax-delinquent celebrities. The program is also aimed at discouraging the public from following the examples of such tax evaders. This is why stars like Regine, Richard Gomez and Judy Ann Santos have so far been the biggest "catches" of RATE.

"I'M happy to help by being an example."

Talking to a group of entertainment writers in a gathering to launch her as endorser of Wow Magic Sing (karaoke mics), Regine added: "It's just that going through it is really hard. I don't know anything about taxes. I just know how to perform."

Even so, the singer takes "full responsibility" for her troubles. "I should have checked and rechecked the documents. This could have been prevented."

The BIR filed tax evasion charges before the Department of Justice last year against Regine for her alleged failure to declare P3.75 million in income as product endorser of Nestlé Philippines Inc. in 2003.

"I hire people to do these things," Regine said during Thursday's gathering. "My staff—and I—must have failed to produce the necessary papers."

The DOJ recently dismissed the case. But Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. said the BIR and Department of Finance were preparing a motion for reconsideration to be filed against Regine.

"That's going to be another problem," the singer said. "This serves as a reminder for me to pay more attention to details."

She was touring the United States with Pops Fernandez when the BIR filed the charges. "When I got back here, it was already a big issue. I couldn't eat. I cried almost everyday. *Nalagas ang buhok ko* (my hair fell). I kept thinking: 'I could go to jail. *Paano 'yun? Kawawa naman ako* (poor me)," said Regine.

Despite all that, Regine said, she never once thought of living abroad.

"I never thought of migrating—not even to Venice—my favorite city ever," she stressed. "Whenever I go away, I almost always get homesick on the fourth day. I miss Pinoy food—*kanin, patis* (rice, fish sauce). No matter how hard life is here, it's still the best place for me."

Do you sing your own songs on your karaoke?

No. It's not that I've grown tired of them. It's just nice to sing somebody else's songs sometimes, like Ella Mae's (Sayson) "'Til My Heartache Ends," or songs by Mariah Carrey and Whitney Houston. I also like singing songs that don't require me to shout much.

How will you spend your birthday (yesterday, April 22)? Do you have a birthday wish?

The same thing I wished for last year—happiness for my whole family, and peace of mind. On my birthday, I'll go to an exclusive resort with my best friend. The following day, my family and I will fly to Boracay. For the first time in 20 years, I will go on a vacation.

Finding a special someone is not on your wish list?

That's for me to know and for you to find out (laughs). It's better for me right now not to talk about my love life. I know that many want to hear me talk about it, but I want to keep it private. Once I say something, it's like inviting everyone into the relationship.

It's been two years since your last film (Mars Ravelo's "Captain Barbell"), any new movie coming up?

My next project is a co-production between Viva Films and Star Cinema. It will be with Piolo Pascual. It has not been finalized. I've been waiting for this for over a year and half. We're having problems with our work schedules.

Do you have plans of renewing your exclusive talent contract with Viva Entertainment?

Right now, I want to do projects with other companies. I want to go freelance. But because I have a very good relationship with Viva, I prioritize their projects.

OMB, Anti-Film Piracy Council at loggerheads

RYAN LIM

EDU Manzano

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"IRREGULAR, INTERMITtent," Edu Manzano, chair of the Optical Media Board, described the monthly subsidy that his agency receives from the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council Inc.

Manzano was reacting to a story in INQUIRER Entertainment (April 20) in which Ric Camaligan, president of the anti-piracy body, pointed out that the council had been "cooperating" with the OMB by giving it a monthly stipend of P200,000—which would have totaled P2.4 million for a whole year starting in October 2004, but it was stopped short in June 2005.

"The OMB received no more than P1.8 million last year," Manzano clarified, quoting lawyer Marivic Benedicto, former OMB executive director, who resigned from the agency on April 15.

Manzano pointed out that it

OMB/ A2-2

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Cueshé's music video launch

SHOW TIME

CUESHÉ IS BACK WITH ITS FIFTH single, "24 Hours," from the platinum-selling album, "Half Empty-Hal Full," under Sony BMG Music Entertainment. Written by bassist Friz Labrado for his ex flame, the poignant song is about moving on. "It is possible to cherish the good times in your past relationship, and still get on with your life," Ftiz says.

A music video conceptualized and directed by Bobby Bonifacio Jr and Quark Henares will be formally launched in a free show on April 29, 8 p.m., at the Eastwood City Plaza in Libis, Quezon City. It will premiere on the same day on MYX video channel.

Beauties at Robinsons

Ms Earth Philippines 2006 candidates started touring Robinsons Malls on Friday. First stop was Robinsons Place Pioneer. The girls are part of a fashion show titled "Environmental Fashion Show." Today, they will be at Robinsons Metro East; May 1, Robinsons Galleria; May 2, Robinsons Place Manila. Shows stars at 4 p.m. Robinsons Malls have been the pageant's official mall partner for the past three years.

Mother's Day at EK

The Enchanted Kingdom theme park is currently open 4 p.m. to midnight on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays until June 4. Starting May 1, operating hours will be 4 p.m. to midnight.

Mothers' Day will be celebrated from May 8 to 14; Father's Day on June 17 and 18. A PBA Fans Day is also set next month. Call 8302116.

Today

Katrina Halili at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.

Join the Club at Robinsons Place Imus

CUESHÉ

Anti-Film…

From page A2-1

was Benedicto who received the past disbursements.

Camaligan confirmed the figure. He recalled, "From October 2004 to June 2005, the council gave OMB P200,000 monthly, for a total of P1.8." He said the halted disbursements would resume as soon as OMB has fully liquidated the amount.

Since the subsidy was withheld, Camaligan said, OMB had begun the liquidation process. "As of April 2006," he noted, "they still have to account for P400,000." On top of the P1.8 million, he said, the council had forwarded over P400,000 for OMB meetings and activities. "That's a total of P2.210 million," Camaligan said.

Donations

"Donations," is how the council refers to the disbursements.

"I know for a fact that we were never given P2.4 million by Mr. Camaligan," Manzano countered. "With regard to the P400,000 he mentioned, P50,000 went to a conference, not to operations. P175,000 was reimbursement for money advanced for operations that the OMB undertook for the MMFF (Metro Manila Film Festival)."

Manzano insisted: "What [OMB] needs is more than a subsidy."

The disagreement between Manzano and Camaligan stems from the new MMFF allocation drafted by Malacañang.

In the new sharing scheme, the council's allotment was slashed from the original 30 to 5 percent. The OMB is one of two new beneficiaries along with the Film Development Council of the Philippines—with 5 and 10 percent, respectively.

Attempts

Camaligan said that the council's three attempts to set a meeting with Manzano have been unsuccessful.

Manzano explained he was hesitant to accept the invitation. He said the council should first iron out a problem with Vic del Rosario, presidential consultant for entertainment and president of the anti-piracy body at the time of the disbursements, who resigned from the council in February.

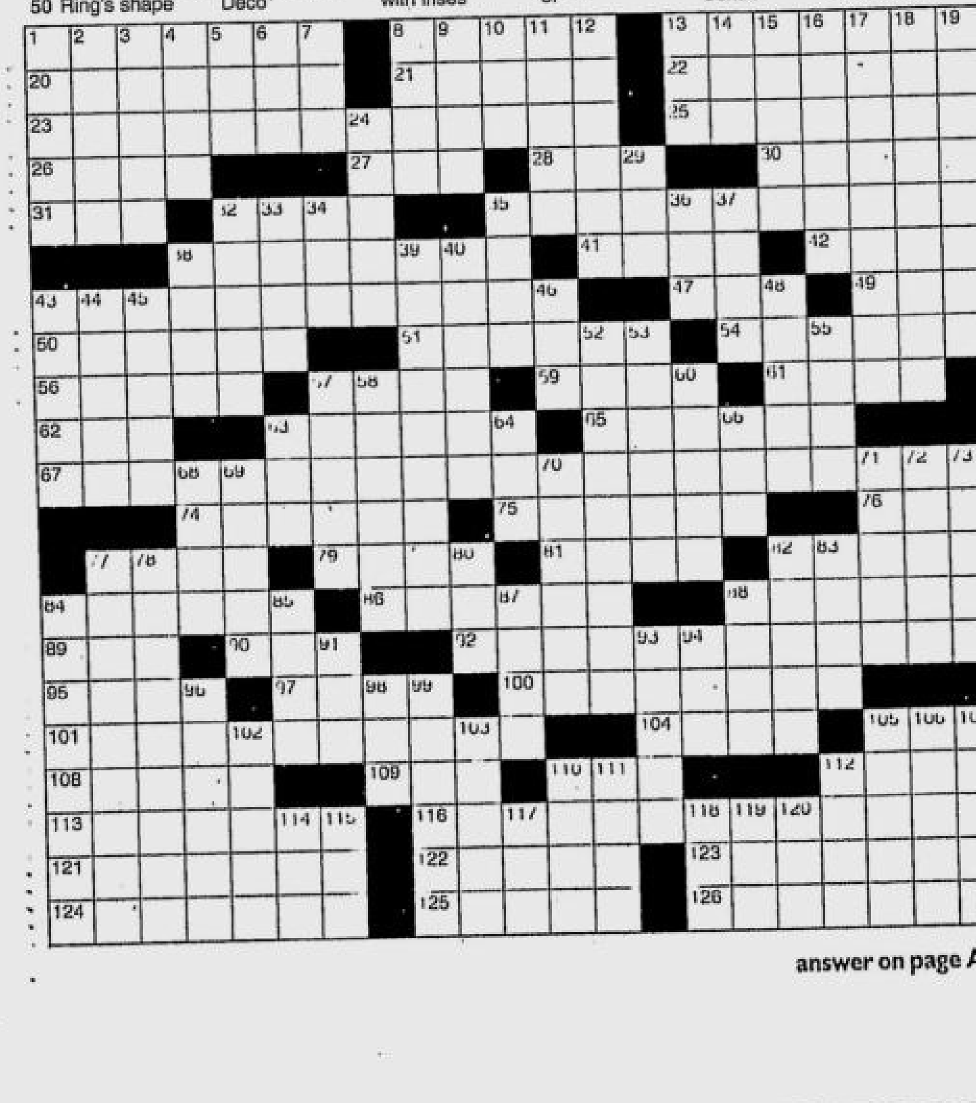
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

IN OR OUT?

ACROSS
1 Diary
8 Falk or Fonda
13 Painter Henri
20 French magician's shout
21 Baghdad citizen
22 Sailor's song
23 Masonry mortar covered in fleece?
25 Taxi charge
26 Oceans
27 Mule's dad
28 "— Wiedersehen!"
30 Novelist Joyce Carol —
31 Busy hosp. areas
32 Sacred
35 Vietnamese statesman who spills the beans?
38 Shaken-on agreement
41 Wallop
42 Health club class
43 Expertise in pouring tea from a kettle?
47 Morning droplets
49 Composer Rorem
50 Ring's shape
51 Those who abhor
54 Cross out
56 Undersized
57 Pitcher Maddux
59 Captures
61 Modest skirt
62 "— Beso" (Paul Anka song)
63 Bar in a steering mechanism
65 Obligations
67 Close enough to something to see it glimmer?
74 Tried for a homer
75 Part of a steam generator
76 Motorist's gp.
77 Mine vehicle
79 Droops
81 "No" voters
82 Tilt
84 Actress Stone
86 Unlock again
88 One of the Furies
89 Cool, to a bebopper
90 Tasseled cap
92 Santa's admonition to a wrestler?
95 "Father of Art Deco"
97 Repetitious learning
100 Bacon or Lamb, e.g.
101 Publicly praise a lumberjack?
104 Green of "Austin Powers" films
105 Heady brew
108 Poet Federico Garcia —
109 Gender
110 Cobbler, e.g.
112 Big name in cleansers
113 Emperor of Japan since 1989
116 Period in which one uses resources over and over again?
121 Capital of Assyria
122 Gaze angrily
123 Little laugh
124 College conferrals
125 Rob of "Silk Stalkings"
126 Mosaic tile

DOWN
1 Rev. Jackson
2 Different
3 Eye parts with irises
4 Small, agile deer
5 Puppy's bite
6 Boxing great
7 — Cruces
8 Porkers
9 Has it wrong
10 Eastern ideal
11 The same in value
12 Church ceremony
13 Caesar's 1,200
14 "I caught you!"
15 Fifer's drum
16 Very bad reputation
17 Posted in a position
18 African wildlife reserve
19 Sun visor, e.g.
24 Friend of Mozart
29 Justice Dept. div.
32 How some topics are debated
33 Formerly
34 Sign before Virgo
35 Smudge
36 A-E linkup
37 Barely got, with "out"
38 Conduit
39 Singer Melissa
40 Catherine of —
43 Item driven by a carpenter
44 Sainted second-century pope
45 "Believe it —!"
46 Calf locale
48 "Haven't — before?"
52 Stars like Antares
53 Like an Adonis, in slang
55 Actress Kudrow
57 Main ideas
58 Put on trial again
60 Hoggeries
63 Big bang cause
64 Fish with lightly bobbing bait
66 Its cap. is Jerusalem
68 Letter-shaped girder
69 "— the opinion ..." (viewpoint opener)
70 Pieces for nine
71 Civil rights gp.
72 Last words of "Over the Rainbow"
73 Toronto's — Centre
77 Baseball-themed film of 2002
78 Delighting greatly
80 Really cry
82 Move in mud
83 Riga native
84 — sheepdog
85 Nephew of Caligula
87 Hammer part
88 Have — to pick
91 Menagerie
93 Artist's stand
94 Bread type
96 Acid artisan
98 NFL goals
99 Come to light
102 Give up
103 Skating jumps
105 "It's —, son!"
106 Matt of "Today"
107 Part of E.T.
110 Funeral heap
111 Chills
112 Fundamentals
114 Ball supporter
115 Surprised cries
117 Lion, e.g.
118 Suffix with 1-Across
119 Toledo-Madrid dir.
120 Soldiers



answer on page A2-5

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MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	ICE AGE 2 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	BASIC INSTINCT 2 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	EIGHT BELOW 3:50 / 8:50 ICE AGE 2 1:20 / 6:20
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Yasmien and Rainier 'comfortable' together

PHOTO COURTESY OF GMA NETWORK

RAINIER and Yasmien: Cool in every way, too, we guess.

RUSHES

"WE'RE COMFORTABLE WITH each other," is the most that rumored couple Rainier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi can say about their relationship.

Sources close to the young stars offer an intriguing piece of information: The only way their friendship could grow into a romance would be for Rainer, a Catholic, to convert to Iglesia ni Cristo.

Yas, Rainer's love interest in GMA 7's sitcom, "Hocus Pocus," is a devoted INC member.

The name is Christian

Christian Bautista is frustrated because people call him by different names.

"One lady who asked to be photographed with me said, '"Hi Christian Espiritu!' Another called me Mark Bautista; still another called me Christian Vasquez. The height was when someone called me Sam (Milby)!"

INQUIRER Entertainment advised him to wear a name plate.

Cheryl Burke due home

Fil-Am dancer Cheryl Burke, grand prize winner of "Dancing with the Stars" in the US—her partner was Drew Lachey, formerly of 98 Degrees—is coming home May 3 for a visit. She is looking forward to gorging on her favorite Filipino dishes.

Brown University grad

Kimberly Dan, starring in "Unleash... The Power of 3," with Reuben Laurente (formerly of The Company) and Ara Fontamillas, is said to have graduated from Brown University last year with a BA Economics degree.

Brown U, located in Providence, Rhode Island, is American's seventh oldest university and a member of the Ivy League. "Unleash" is set on May 5 at GCF Center in Ortigas.

Kudos to Mwah!

Club Mwah in Mandaluyong is now officially a DOT-accredited establishment. The guys, girls and gays of Folies de Mwah are beside themselves with happiness. Watch their headdresses glow next time you're in the club.

Leo's latest

Agence France Presse reports that Leonardo DiCaprio is dating an Israeli model following his break-up from supermodel Gisele Bündchen. Quoting People magazine, AFP said the very private 31-year-old actor was spotted out on Paris' Champs Elysées holding hands with swimsuit model Bar Refaeli, 20, last weekend. Well, INQUIRER Entertainment bumped into Leo once in a health store in LA. In a jogging suit. At 10 p.m.

FEEDBACK

Anti-Heart

From Megan Rose San Diego (meganrosesd@hotmail.com):

Lisa from Makati couldn't have said it better: Heart Evangelista sucks! But not only because she's so materialistic. She's got to be the most overly dramatic but untalented young actress, so self-absorbed she probably thinks she has a red-hot career. Her fame peaked when she was with John Pratts who was smart enough to break up with her (no sensible girl will ever ask her boyfriend to stop his schooling!). Not only has she destroyed Jericho Rosales' career; she has also managed to turn his brains into mush.

Pro-Heart

From Marc Lee:

Thank you for the features on my favorite actress, Heart Evangelista! She's so gorgeous... and so classy. There's no one like her.

I think Lisa of Makati is just jealous she can't afford the things that Heart buys. It's not Heart's fault she was asked to show her things, what was she supposed to do? Pretend that all her stuff weren't branded?

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KID FIT

Disney musical latest kiddie phenomenon

MICKEY Mouse's family continues to grow. Soon there may be Troy and Gabriella, too.

LOS ANGELES—THE MOST HE and his colleagues were expecting to do with "High School Musical," a song-and-dance romance that Disney executive Gary Marsh described as "'Grease' meets 'Romeo and Juliet,'" was create a hit movie for kids.

What happened was, they unleashed one of the biggest US children's-TV phenomena since "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" in the 1950s.

When "High School Musical" debuted on the Disney Channel on Jan. 20, it drew nearly eight million US viewers, making it the top-rated basic-cable TV show that week. When it was repeated the next night, it drew more than six million viewers, according to the Nielsen Media Research group.

What's the fuss?

The broadcast of a karaoke version was a hit, and in March three videos from the movie were among the 12 most-popular downloads at the Apple iTunes Music Store. The movie soundtrack reached No. 10 on the US Billboard pop-music charts two weeks after its release and hit No. 1 four weeks later. At one point there were nine singles from the soundtrack on the chart.

There rare plans for a sequel. The DVD of the original will be released next month with "High School Musical—the Novel." A stage show and a touring concert version is a possibility. Cell-phone ring tones from the movie are going on sale and a back-to-back airing of the film and the karaoke version was set yesterday. In June, Disney will export "High School Musical" to its cable channels in 23 other countries.

What is all the fuss about?

When some kids in suburban LA were surveyed recently, every hand shot up when asked if they had seen the show.

The film was made with a teenage cast of relative unknowns. Zac Efron as Troy, a basketball star, and Vanessa Anne Hudgens' as "brainiac" Gabriella trying out for the lead parts in their high school musical. Their efforts are almost derailed by their friends but they all eventually get on the same page, singing and dancing pretty much every step of the way.

"The soundtrack isn't exactly challenging," according to a recent Billboard review. "[But] it does feature a pretty engaging mix of music and empowering messages."

Marsh, president of entertainment for Disney Channel Worldwide, makes no apologies: "A kid's world is incredibly tense and full of pressure and anguish. If we can provide the release valve… it sure feels good." AP

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D' LUCKY ONES GP 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	AMERICAN SOLDIERS R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:25	ICE AGE 2 G 11:30,1:30,3:30, 5:30,7:30,9:30

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③ ICE AGE 2
MTRCB GP
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④ TRISTAN & ISOLDE
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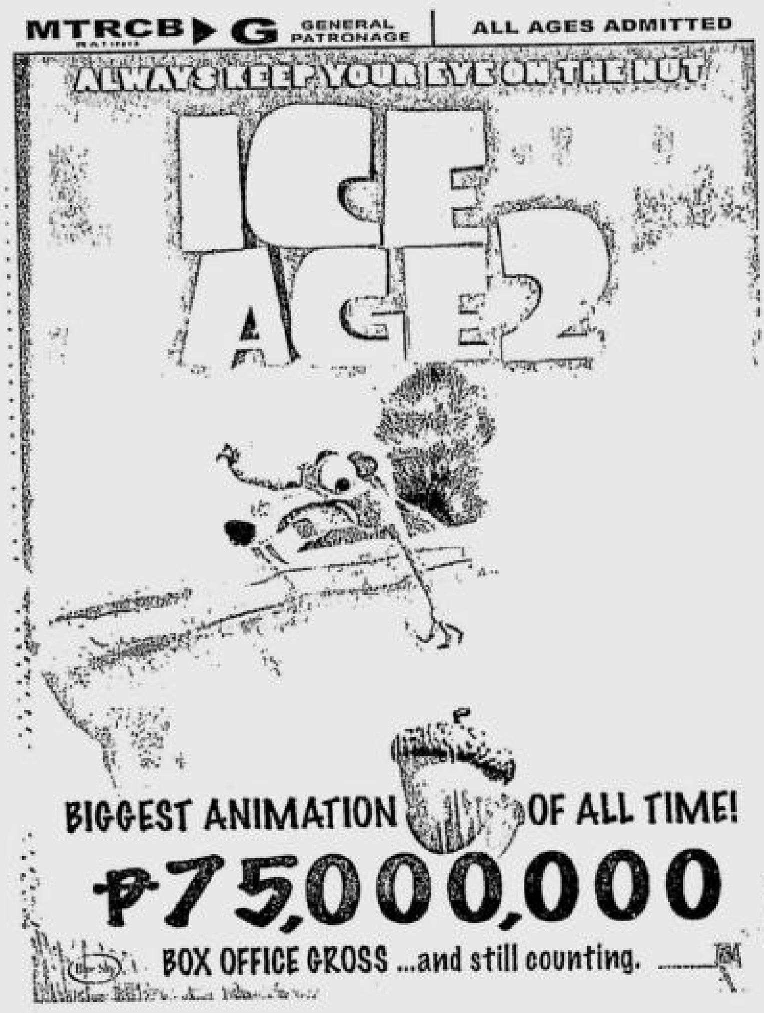
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	D' LUCKY ONES	EIGHT BELOW	PAMAHIIN	SUBMERGED			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	D' LUCKY ONES	THX TRISTAN & ISOLDE 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	SUBMERGED	JUST FRIENDS	EIGHT BELOW	PAMAHIIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	EIGHT BELOW	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX EIGHT BELOW 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THE HILLS HAVE EYES 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	RENT 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	TRISTAN & ISOLDE 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX EIGHT BELOW	D' LUCKY ONES	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	PAMAHIIN	TRISTAN & ISOLDE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	EIGHT BELOW	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	SHE'S THE MAN	D' LUCKY ONES			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	D' LUCKY ONES	SUBMERGED	PAMAHIIN	EIGHT BELOW	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN		

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7:30 - 8:30
April 19
7:30 - 8:30
April 28
8:30 - 9:30
May 3
7:30 - 8:30

I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE
Greenbelt 2
A Repertory Philippines Production
April 4, 18, 25,
May 2, 9, 16

Affairs with the Masters
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Fernando Sena
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Saturday
Alex Chan Lim
April 29
4:00pm - 6:30pm

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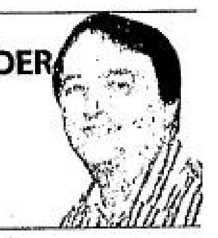
We hope psychologists will be on hand for 'PBB' teen edition

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

THUS FAR, ABS-CBN HAS come up with two editions of "Pinoy Big Brother." The first version of the reality show involved then-unknown "housemates" chosen for their sexy or hunky looks or "audience-accessible" qualities.

While it succeeded in making celebrities out of some of its "graduates," the reality challenge was generally characterized by tedium, occasionally interrupted by bursts of attention-calling activity.

The second edition of "PBB" was more successful because it featured minor celebrities who didn't have to waste much time establishing themselves in viewers' consciousness.

In addition, they were more interesting and colorful individuals who had a clearer sense of self. Thus their behavior, speech and relationships were more eventful and view-worthy.

Now, the third "PBB" edition will involve unknowns once again—only this time they will all be teenagers. What are the new challenge's prospects?

On the plus side, there are millions upon millions of teens in the Philippines, so the new show will be an empathetic viewing experience for many.

It could tackle issues and provide insights into the aspects related to teen life, behavior, attitudes and problems that could clear the air for youths and parents alike.

On the other hand, the teen edition of "PBB" could inordinately stress relationships, crushes, sensuality, sexuality—so, watch out for all those raging hormones!

We trust that the show will have youth psychologists on hand to supervise some of its more "interesting" activities and "experiments," so they don't get out of hand.

If the people behind the show resolutely refuse to let the teen edition disintegrate into a sniffling, squabbling love soap, it could become an interesting and instructive viewing experience.

And, if the teen "housemates" come across well in the show, some of them could become stars in their own right. It'll all depend on how savvily they're chosen, and how creatively and responsibly the new show is handled.

Let the teen "games" begin!

Movies on TV

ON HBO today at 8 a.m., "Gothika." 10:20 p.m., "Disclosure." Tomorrow at 3:15 p.m., "Surviving Picasso." 4:30 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2." April 26 at 10:30 a.m., "Catch-22." 12:15 a.m., "True Lies." April 27 at 8 p.m., "Rome 10: Triumph ." 9 p.m., "Rome 11: The Spoils." 9;45 p.m., "Rome 12: Calends of February." April 28 at 6 a.m., "Lady Jane."

On Cinemax today at 7 p.m., "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story." 10:30 p.m., "Pleasantville." Tomorrow at 8:10 a.m., "The Appaloosa." April 25 at 12 noon, "Mystic River." 2:15 p.m., "Beetlejuice." 4 p.m., "Born Yesterday." April 26 at 9:05 a.m., "House of Wax." 1:30 p.m., "Cactus Flower." 6:20 p.m., "Reality Bites." April 27 at 6:15 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." 11:25 p.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." April 28 at 2:40 p.m., "The Last Hurrah."

Palengke Tour

AI AI DELAS Alas' Maggie Magic Sarap palengke tour hits the Naga Public Market and Plaza Quezon, Naga today. On April 30, Ai Ai visits the La Paz Public Market and Jaro Plaza, Iloilo.

RX 93.1

ON MONSTER Radio RX 93.1, "The RX Concert Series" (Monday, 6 p.m.) features Color It Red on April 24, Michael Angelo on May 1, Barbie Almabis and Pupil on May 8, and Mojofly on May 15.

Monster Movie a Premiers: April 23, "The Wild." May 2, "Aquamarine." And on April 28, RX holds another 'Yuppie Nights" party for the cool working set.

Metropolitan Museum

THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila will hold an International Conference on Heritage Houses and Vernacular Architecture in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, on May 16 and 17. Topics include The Evolution of the Philippine House, Bohol Houses: Homes as Part of Heritage, Heritage Houses, Creative Industries and Cultural Tourism, LEAP: The Unesco Program for House Restoration, Documenting Heritage Houses in Batanes, Treasure of Casa Rocha Suarez, Restoration of Heritage Houses and Resources, and Heritage Houses and the School Curriculum. Call (02) 5211517 or e-mail archiconf@yahoo.com/info@metromusem.ph

Secret Bible Week

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel's Secret Bible Week offers these programming highlights: May 1 at 9 p.m., "The Knights Templar." Europe's most powerful religious body in the Middle Ages, the Templars promoted the faith and good works. But, when they ran afoul of the French King, they were declared traitors and devil worshippers.

May 2 at 9 p.m., "Rivals of Jesus." Why did the Mediterranean world seem to create so many other Messiahs, like Apollonius of Tyana? And why did the Christian faith win over many of those sects?

May 3 at 9 p.m., "Apocalypse." On the "End Days" prophesied in the Bible. May 4 and 5 at 9 p.m., "Unlocking Da Vinci's Code," Parts 1 and 2.

CHEER FACTOR

RP onstage

RIVERMAYA, one of the Philippines' hottest bands, will perform at the 5th Annual MTV Asia Awards on May 6 at Siam Paragon in Bangkok, along with American rock band **Hoobastank** and Japan's hip-hop supergroup **Teriyaki Boyz**. They join the previously announced performers **KO?N**, **Lee Ryan** and **Simon Webbe**. Other top draws are **Kangta** of Korea, **Tata Young** and **Thaitaniun** of Thailand, **Vanness Wu** of Taiwan, **Vicky Zhao** of Mainland China, **Same Same**, **Sweelnam** and **The Veronicas**, winner of the title Spankin' New Artist at the 2006 MTV Australian Video Music Awards.

Hoobastank—lead vocalist **Doug Robb**, guitarist **Dan Estrin** and drummer **Chris Hesse**—is returning to Bangkok after their spectacular performance at the MTV Asia Aid in 2005. They are praised by fans as "ear candy of post-grunge rock. , their first album went platinum with the hit singles "Crawling in the Dark" and "Running Away." Their second album, with the carrier hit "The Reason" (2003) has sold five millions copies worldwide. "The Reason" is the reportedly the second most legally downloaded track of all time.

RP's Rivermaya is the winner of Favorite Artist (Philippines) in 2005 and nominee for the same category at this year's MTV Asia Awards. The band's success spans more than a decade, punctuated with such hits as "Umaaraw, Umuulan", "Ballsong", "Liwanag sa Dilim" and "You'll Be Safe Here." Their latest album, "Rivermaya Greatest Hits 2006: The Ultimate Collection," turned gold in less than a week of its release and has now become platinum.

The awards program will be available to over 400 million households via 43 channels and worldwide syndication.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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R-13

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G

3 EIGHT BELOW
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
GP

4 JUST FRIENDS
1:20, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
R-13

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GP
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R13
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MUSIC MUSEUM

APRIL 26 ,2006	FREESTYLE & POPS FERNANDEZ	8:00PM
APRIL 27 & 28 ,2006	WILLIE NEPOMUCENO	8:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY APRIL 27,28, 29 , 2006	TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	7:00PM 9:00PM

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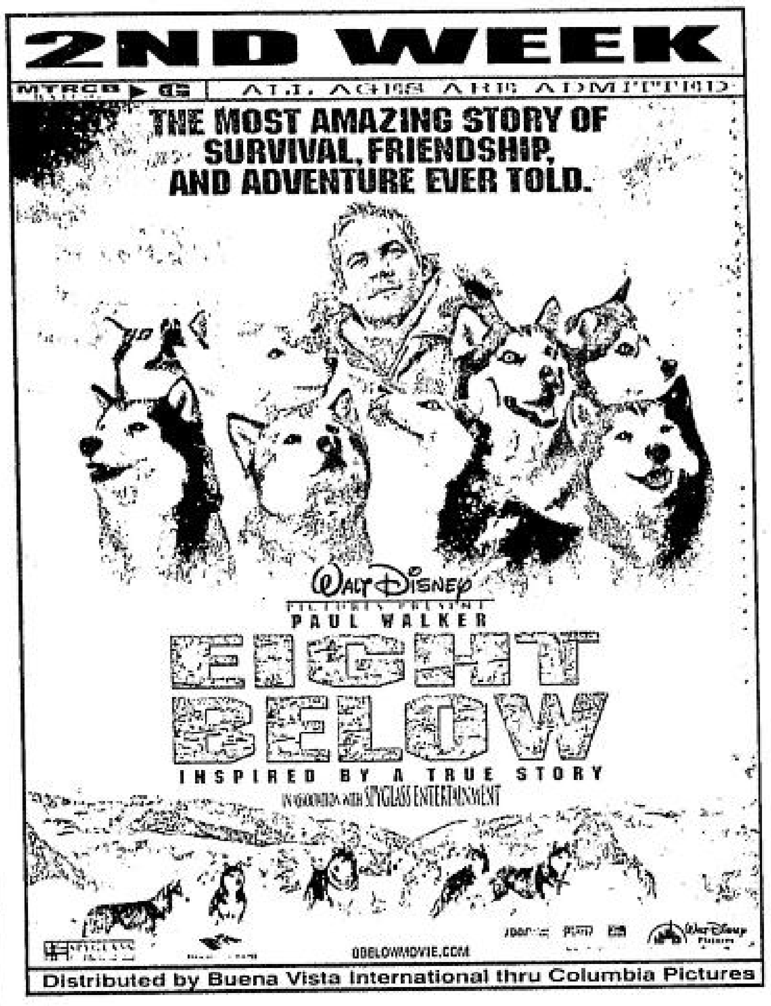
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The DARK NURSES
The JANITOR
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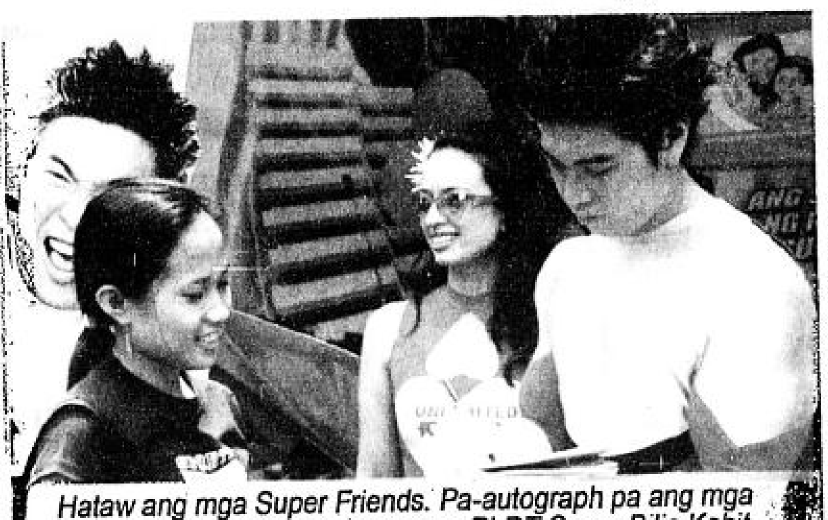
Marami ang mga tagahanga ng PLDT Super Friends sa harap ng Cebu Sports Plaza.

Apply dito, apply doon, picture dito, picture doon. Fiesta!



Hataw ang mga Super Friends. Pa-autograph pa ang mga naabutan na nag-a-apply sa mga PLDT Super Bilis Kabit Booth.

Hayan, apply na agad ang mga taga-Cebu para 48 hours lang may PLDT landline na sila na may Super Powers pa!

Super laki ng ngiti nila dahil may PLDT Landline agad sila. Tawag agad para laging masaya!

Akala ni Violy Avenido, lineman ang kumakatok laking gulat niya nang makita ang mga Super Friends. "Ang saya-saya!," sabi ni Violy.

"Bilis-kabit talaga! Kaninang umaga lang ako nag-apply, ngayon may PLDT landline na ako," tuwang-tuwang sabi ni Nimfa Ipong ng Cebu.

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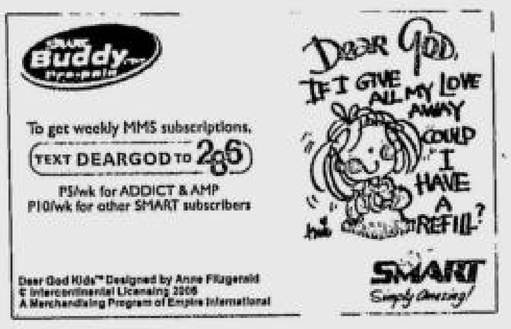
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Fathers & sons: Douglas, Sutherland

…by the way, how is dear Julia doing on Broadway?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—THE VERdict is in on **Julia Roberts'** much-ballyhooed Broadway debut.

Here's what the critics wrote on the star's performance in the play "Three Days of Rain":

The New York Times: "She's stiff with self-consciousness (especially in the first act)."

Variety: "Richard Greenberg's 1997 play is not entirely well served by Roberts or vice versa… She's a beguiling but opaque presence where an insightful character study is required."

The Hollywood Reporter: "While the actress delivers a reasonably effective performance opposite co-stars **Paul Rudd** and **Bradley Cooper**, the star wattage so evident on the screen doesn't seem, at least in this case, to transfer to the stage."

New York Post: "Hated the play. To be sadly honest, even hated her. At least I liked the rain—even if three days of it can seem an eternity."

Julia fans, it's not all grim news—she scored a nomination from the Drama League, one of the first nods of Broadway's awards season.

Looking like Kirk

"I think I am more and more like my dad as I get older."

When **Michael Douglas**, sporting a silver beard, said this, we couldn't help but observe that he's also looking more and more like his equally famous father, **Kirk Douglas**. To look and become more like Kirk is not such a bad thing, a reporter told Michael. "Not at all," Michael agreed and proudly added that his papa, the legendary actor who played Spartacus onscreen, is turning 90 this year. He added that the beard was for "King of California," which he is currently filming.

On this afternoon, we also interviewed Kiefer **Sutherland**, son of another great actor, **Donald Sutherland**. In the case of the star of the hugely successful "24" TV series, it was like seeing a much younger Donald. We've had the pleasure of interviewing the illustrious fathers, whose presence in any room commands attention, especially Kirk, who is still quite a raconteur despite his frail health.

Aside from having famous dads, hit TV series (Michael's was "The Streets of San Francisco"—way before your time, kids) and starring in the new movie "The Sentinel," Michael and Kiefer share one other important thing: they have managed to escape the shadow of their fathers and earned success on their own terms. Most other children of famous actor parents are not as successful.

Being older than Kiefer by 22 years, Michael, 61, can afford to take breaks from acting and producing whenever he wants to.

"I took a three-year break," the father of actress **Catherine Zeta-Jones'** two kids said of his latest hiatus. "I was just raising the family. **Dylan** is five. My daughter **Carys** is going to be three. It's been a fabulous time—to have a family at this age. Catherine is obviously at the prime of her career. She was going to be off working, so I decided that it was a great time to take a break."

When a reporter asked if he still worries about his looks as he matures, the Oscar-winning actor and producer (for "Wall Street" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," respectively) replied, "I probably care a whole lot less because I'm happily married and have two lovely little children as opposed to somebody maybe of my age who is alone and his career is the only thing in front of him. My priorities have clearly changed. Family coming first was certainly something that I could never say earlier in my career."

The star of "Fatal Attraction" and "Basic Instinct" claimed to be realistic in his attitude about having a wife who is 25 years younger: "When you have a younger bride, you've got to be careful that you recognize the realities of how old you are and what's going on and not pretending to be anything other than that."

As Michael rattled off the things he and Catherine recently did with the kids while the latter is filming in New York (they watched "Beauty and the Beast" and "Ice Age 2," among others), his cell phone rang, as if on cue. "Excuse me," he said as he fumbled for the cell phone in his pocket. "This is Catherine calling me," he an

FATHERS/ A3-2

KIRK, er, Michael, Douglas

KIEFER Sutherland: Alcoholic?

JULIA Roberts: Critics are having a ball. AP

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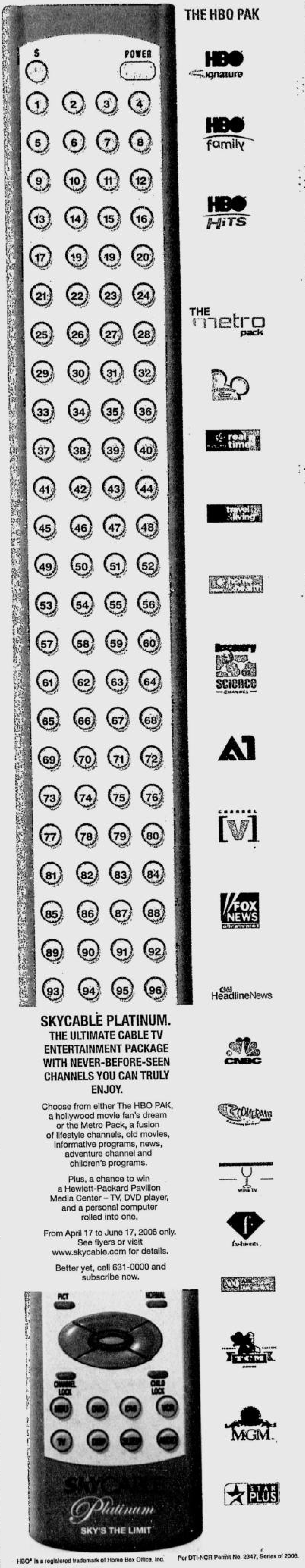
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Fathers & sons: Douglas, Sutherland

From page A3-1

nounced to us, his eyes twinkling. "Honey, I am sitting in front of the Hollywood Foreign Press (laughter). Yes, darling, as we talk right now … I'll call you back, sweetie."

After he hung up, Michael was asked about playing the father of **Kate Hudson** (daughter of his long-time friend, **Goldie Hawn** and whom he fondly calls Katie), in the coming comedy film "You, Me and Dupree." "I have known Katie her whole life," he declared. "I literally held Katie when she was a tiny kid."

Then he volunteered an anecdote, a telling story of the man-about-town he was after his split from **Diandra Douglas** and before finding and settling down with Catherine. "I remember a few years ago, after I was divorced from my first wife, I was at a club in New York. I was sitting there and this stunning girl, in this red dress, came walking toward me. I went whoa, look at this girl (laughter) and I thought, okay, I must be a lucky guy. I went, 'Hi, how are you doing?' and she went, 'Michael, it's Katie' (laughter). I said, 'Katie, sorry, sorry, I didn't recognize you' (laughter). She was coming over to say hello, that's all, and I was thinking, this is great."

Still loveless

While Michael finally found marital bliss with Catherine, Kiefer is still loveless after two marriages that ended in divorce and an engagement called off by Julia Roberts. "That was a great friend of mine," he said when asked about his date, **Tricia Cardozo**, at the Golden Globes last January. "One of the few problems with the show ('24') is that it's so labor intensive. It's very hard to be able to even find the time to develop a relationship with someone in a proper way. Unless you're going into a show like that in a relationship that's already formed—you go, okay, well, down the line maybe I'll be able to get that all put together."

Asked how important is "excessive alcohol consumption" to him (as implied in a recent Rolling Stone cover story), Kiefer gamely took on the question. "It's not important to me," he began. "First off, let me just say that I was disappointed with the article because I don't feel that it was a balanced representation of a nine-hour conversation (laughter). It focused on the more tabloid-esque aspects of my life.

"Rolling Stone to me is a fantastic magazine. When you do a Rolling Stone interview, you try to approach that with as much candor and honesty as possible, hoping or at least believing that it's going to be a balanced representation of everything. We had amazing discussions about the politics of our show and what it is like to have your own personal politics differ from that, and how do you justify and live within the context of that. None of that got addressed. I focused on things that I was honest about but there's certainly a lot more to me than what was represented by that article.

"It would be impossible to tape 120 hours of programming for '24,' do movies and still be standing, let alone talking if [excessive alcohol consumption] was an absolute true perfect representation of my life. But by the same token, there are certainly moments in my life where that's what I'll do to relax and take off."

Kiefer, who was memorable as a teenage vampire in "The Lost Boys" and starred in other films such as "Young Guns" and "Flatliners," dares to be different by not living in LA's West side area, which includes Beverly Hills. He chooses to live in the Silver Lake area, which is closer to downtown LA.

His real name?

"I really didn't like the West side," he explained. "There was no neighborhood feeling to it. No one knew their neighbors. No one walking on the street. In the neighborhood that I live in, you have grandmothers with children on the streets until 10:30, 11 in the evening. People are cooking on the sidewalk. There's something about it that I connected to. It made me feel more alive. I'm really lucky that I found that area.

"There's such a great influx of writers, artists and people from all over the world who, for whatever reason, usually because that's the place they could afford, chose to live there. Then they chose to build up that area and stay there because they like the community. I've always loved that area for that and that's why I am there."

Since he and Michael (their characters have an animosity toward each other) plus **Eva Longoria** play Secret Service agents in "The Sentinel," I asked Kiefer what he learned from retired agents who trained the actors to believably portray the omnipresent folks who guard the US president.

The actor, whose full name is—take a deep breath—**Kiefer William Frederick Dempsey George Rufus Sutherland**—answered: "One of the specific ones I found interesting is how they draw their weapon. Any other law enforcement agent is taught to draw their weapon, take aim and click off their safety. Because of the nature of the Secret Service and because they are bodyguards, they are taught very specifically to draw their weapon and take their safety off at the same time so that by the time they're drawing their weapon, they have a target. That target is hostile and their intention is to take that person down.

"Also, they're trained to do kill shots. For instance, if I was going to deal with someone who had a bomb, my desire is to be able to kill him quickly enough that he doesn't even have the time to hit that button. The parameters with which they work are so specific. I was very impressed with how specific and meticulous they are at everything they do.

Closet rock star

"The other thing that I learned is that the Secret Service actually branches out into other fields. They do major investigations not just in protecting the President and high ranking members of the US. They're responsible for all counterfeit investigations going on in the US and abroad with regards to US currency. They actually do have murder investigations so there are other branches of the Secret Service outside of the protective details which I was not aware of."

On the difference between acting on TV and in film, Kiefer quickly pointed out, "When we start to air '24' right in January, we have another 12 episodes that we're shooting while people are watching. We get a very quick sense from an audience about what they're connecting to. It's not just people writing in letters; it's posters on the Internet writing, 'We're so mad that Edgar [a character] got killed.' Or 'We love the fact that this happened.' Or 'We don't like this.'

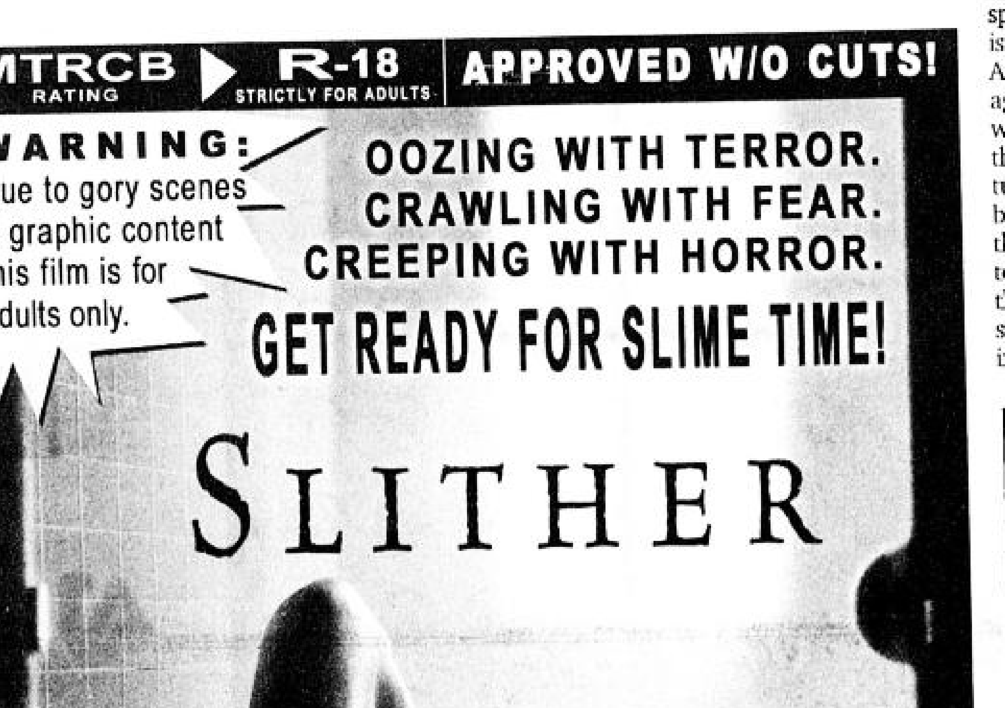
"It has become very much like when I'm doing a play and I can get a sense of what jokes are working, what jokes are not working and what's moving an audience and what's not and you adjust. You can do the same in a television series on some level. With a film, you work completely in a vacuum. Nobody sees it until it's done. It's too late to change anything. If a lot of people don't like it, it's over. But there are benefits to both. There's something very nice about working in the privacy of that vacuum. There's also something incredibly beneficial about having an interactive relationship with an audience."

The Rolling Stone piece mentioned his collection of 50-plus guitars and how he played "silkily through some Hendrix on one of his acoustics." Will we see Kiefer playing guitar on the screen someday? "Absolutely not," he said with a laugh. "I have phenomenal friends who are just brilliant musicians. I play alone in the dark very late at night by myself (laughter)."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

PRETTY Woman with Paul Rudd onstage. She scored a nomination from the Drama League, though.

AP



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'Idol' loses the heartthrob

ACE Young

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

THE HEARTTHROB is gone from the current season of "American Idol."

Ace Young—known for his good looks and mean falsetto and often compared to last year's finalist Constantine Maroulis—received the lowest number of votes this week and got the boot on results night. He was joined by Chris Daughtry and Paris Bennet in the bottom three.

Having been there a couple of times before, Ace said he was more surprised to see Chris with him.

Ironically, Ace had felt optimistic on account of the judges' favorable comments on performance night. "When I saw Chris in my group," he said, "I thought I was safe."

Brett Asa Young, 25, from Denver, Colorado was wrong. His female fans in the theater wept unabashedly when the verdict was announced.

Ace had sang the old standard "That's All" on "Rod Stewart night" and many thought it fitting.

During this exit interview (arranged of Starworld), Ace explained why host Ryan Seacrest called him and Chris the Matt Damon and Ben Affleck of the show. Ace said the two of them had clicked right from the start. He also recalled people saying he looked more attractive than actor Ben Affleck when he pulled his hair back.

Ace said he and Chris would be friends for life: "I'd step in front of a moving train for that guy."

Of all the celebrity guests, who gave you the best advice?

I have to say Kenny Rogers. He said to just pour your heart and soul into every song. That definitely pulled me through. I had [the most] fun during country week.

> After the last results show, Simon Cowell went up to booted contestant Ace Young, shook his hand, hugged him and said, 'I have a feeling I'm going to see a lot of you'

Simon had propped you up throughout the season, including your last performance night. Suddenly he gave you the evil glare and said you were going home. What's with him?

Simon ... that's just how he is. He's very straightforward and America loves him for that. After the show, he came up to me, shook my hand and gave me a hug and said, "I have a feeling I'm going to see a lot of you."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Every week, there are different theories as to why a contestant is voted off. Do you have any?

I don't even look at it that way. I see this as a launching pad and I'm very appreciative that out of all these 92,000 people, I made it the top seven. I'm so excited just waiting to see what opportunities come out of this.

Who will you miss most?

The judges, I guess, because I'm going to see all the top 10 again the whole summer. But I'm really close to Chris and I felt like a big brother to Lisa [Tucker] and to Paris [Bennett] and even to Kevin [Covais]. I'm

TITLE/ A2-4

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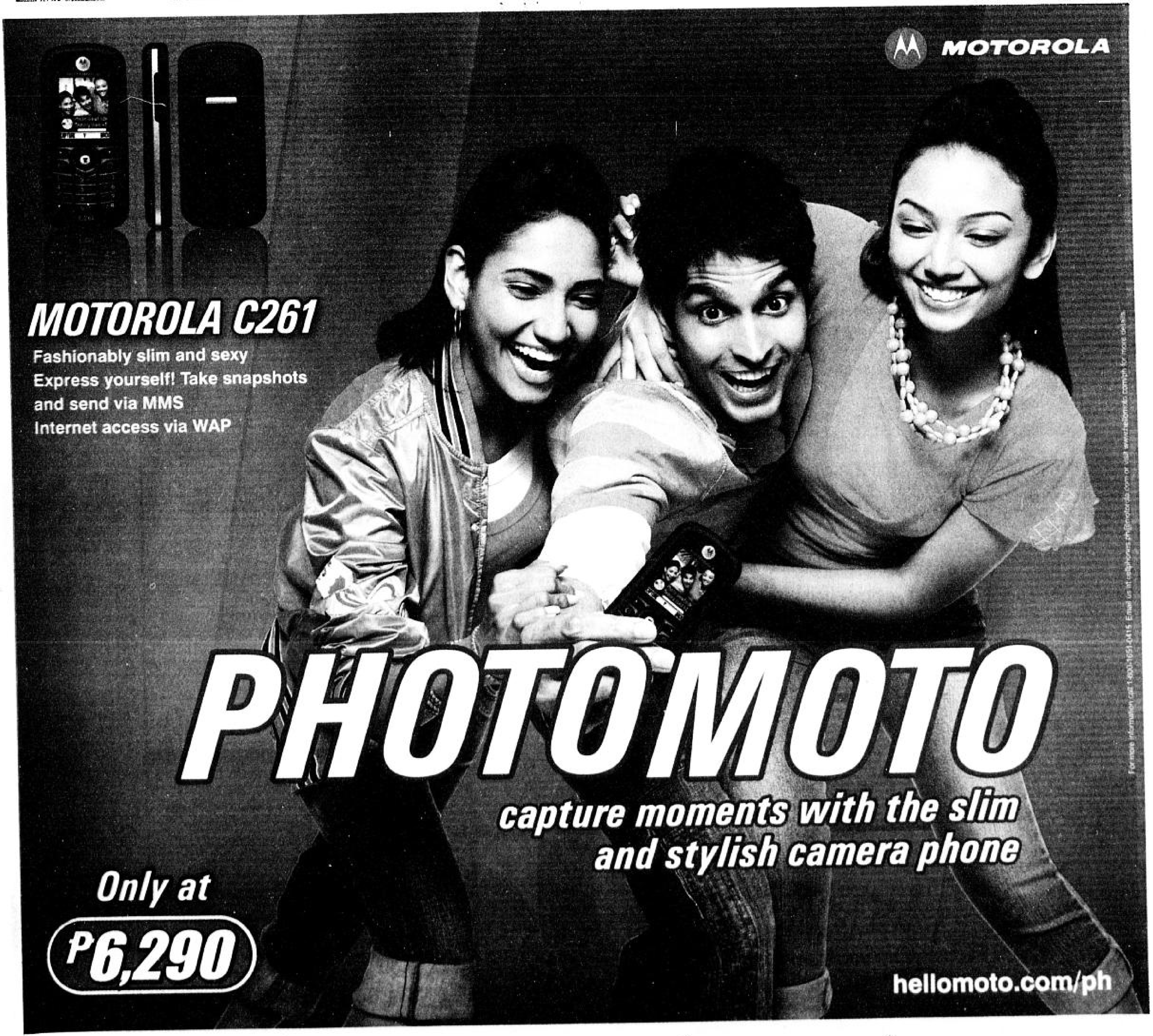

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2 PAMAHIIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 SUBMERGED
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE COOLER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 D' LUCKY ONES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 EIGHT BELOW
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

7 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

9 ICE AGE 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 638-7809 to 12

1 ICE AGE 2
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 AMERICAN SOLDIER 12:35 3:00
BASIC INSTINCT 2 5:15 7:35 10:00

4 PAMAHIIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 SUBMERGED
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 EIGHT BELOW
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 D' LUCKY ONES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 ICE AGE 2
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9.00

3 D' LUCKY ONES
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 EIGHT BELOW
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

8 PAMAHIIN
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 D' LUCKY ONES
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 PAMAHIIN
5 BASIC INSTINCT 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

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2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 RESERVE
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6 EIGHT BELOW

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3 PAMAHIIN
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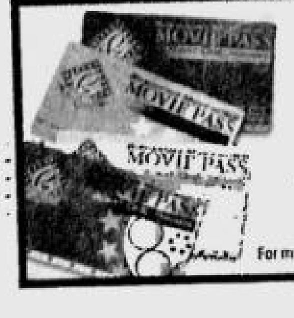

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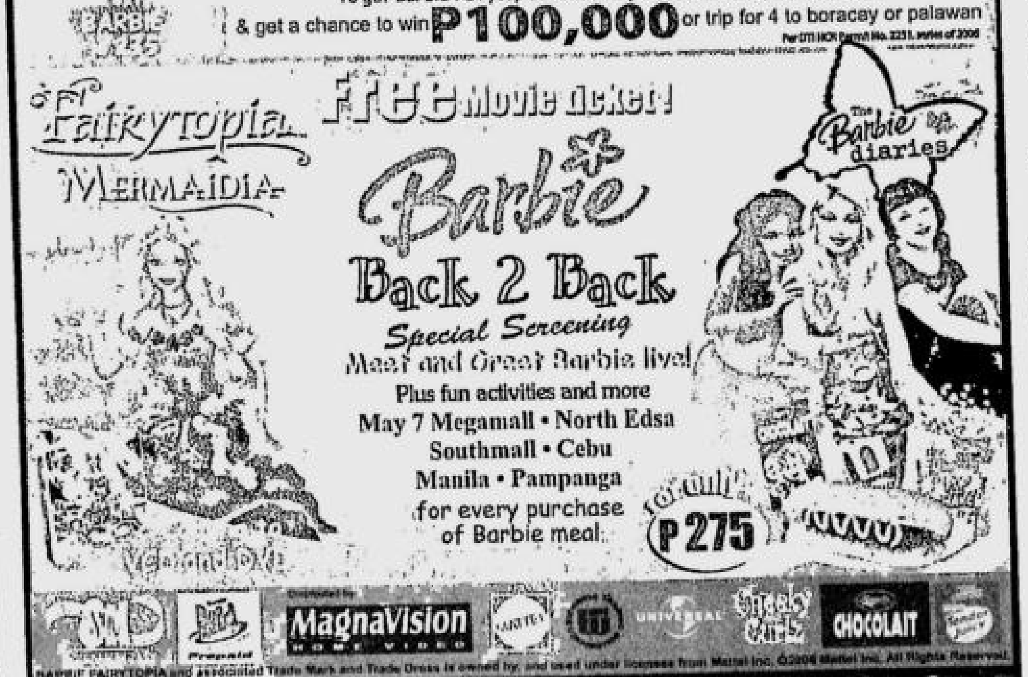

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06:45 / 08:20LFS
08:50 LMF / 10:40 END

EIGHT BELOW
11:55 FS / 02:10 MF / 04:25
06:40 / 8:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 11:00 END

SM MEGACINEMA

1 AMERICAN SOLDIER
2 EIGHT BELOW
3 ICE AGE 2
4 RESERVED
5 BANDIDAS
6 SUBMERGED
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 PAMAHIIN
10 D LUCKY ONES
11 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12 TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 PAMAHIIN
4 ICE AGE 2
5 BANDIDAS
6 SUBMERGED
7 EIGHT BELOW
8 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1 PAMAHIIN
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 BANDIDAS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 PAMAHIIN
7 SUBMERGED
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 ICE AGE 2
10 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
11 VENOM
12 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY STA. MESA

1 ICE AGE 2
2 SUBMERGED
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 PAMAHIIN
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 VENOM
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 BANDIDAS
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY BICUTAN

1 ICE AGE 2
2 PAMAHIIN
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1 ICE AGE 2
2 EIGHT BELOW
3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MANILA

1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
2 VENOM
3 SUBMERGED
4 ICE AGE 2
5 BANDIDAS
6 EIGHT BELOW
10:30 FS / 12:45 MF / 03:00
05:10 / 07:20 / 09:20LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:30 END
7 PAMAHIIN
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
12 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1 ICE AGE 2
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 PAMAHIIN
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
7 SUBMERGED
8 VENOM
9 AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

1 PAMAHIIN
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 ICE AGE 2
4 EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY SUCAT

1 ICE AGE 2
2 PAMAHIIN
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 EIGHT BELOW

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LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO

1 PAMAHIIN
2 ULTRAVIOLETD
3 LUCKY ONES
4 EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY MARILAO

1 EIGHT BELOW
2 PAMAHIIN
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY BATANGAS

1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 PAMAHIIN
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY BACOOR

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 ICE AGE 2
3 PAMAHIIN
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
8 CHINESE TALL STORY

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 PAMAHIIN
4 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 PAMAHIIN
2 JUST FRIENDS
3 EIGTH BELOW
4 ICE AGE 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY LUCENA

1 ICE AGE 2
2 PAMAHIIN
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MOLINO

1 D LUCKY ONES
2 PAMAHIIN
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 ICE AGE 2

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

1 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
12:00FS / 02:24 MF / 04:46
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10
07:08 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 09:30 END
2 SHAGGY DOG
11:50FS / 12:00 MF / 01:54
3:42 / 03:48
07:36 / 09:16 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
3 ULTRAVIOLET
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 PAMAHIIN
6 ICE AGE 2
7 D LUCKY ONES
8 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY ILOILO

1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 RESERVED
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 PAMAHIIN
6 ICE AGE 2
7 RESERVED
8 EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY DAVAO

1 EIGHT BELOW
2 CHINESE TALL STORY
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 JUST FRIENDS
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY CAGAYAN

1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 BANDIDAS
4 V FOR VENDETTA

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'Idol' loses the …

From page A3-5

definitely going to miss Kevin because I'm not going to see him on the tour—he missed it by one week.

Personally, what was your favorite performance?

It would have to be "Father Figure." I really enjoyed that.

Is there any song that you wish you could have done?

There were some Prince songs I really wanted to do.

Would you have loved a Prince week then?

Oh, yes. That would have been a good one for me.

For the last seven years, you said, you have spent Christmas Day singing for patients in a children's hospital. Are you going to do that again this year?

I'm going to do that, yes. It will be my eighth year in a row.

Do you think people are voting more on personality than talent?

I don't know how to answer that. All I know is that the reactions I get when I'm out and about is overwhelming. People really like me. It's something I'm grateful for.

This week, you had this new look. You ditched your curly locks and your long-sleeved shirts for a ponytail and a suit. Could that have affected the votes?

You know what? That was the first suit I ever bought. No, not at all. I just really wanted to clean up and get into the mood of a classic song. It fit the mood. When I had my hair down, it was [always] a distraction.

What do you think went wrong?

I don't think anything went wrong. On any given night, anything can happen. I think America was shocked when Mandisa left.

What do you look for in a girl?

I really like someone who has direction. If you have drive and you know what you want to do with your life, I will support you 100 percent. That's the sexiest thing in anybody that I could look for.

What is the biggest lesson that you learned from being on the show?

Just be who you are.

With your looks and talent, aren't you considering acting or modeling?

I would love to. I would love to do everything.

Catch "American Idol" on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. direct satellite, 8 p.m. primetime and 11:30 p.m. replay.

Why is Rolie playing without Santana?

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

> Being a star is not all that it's cracked up to be; being a good musician is everything they say it is and more

WHO IS GREGG ROLIE and why should music fans expect his live performance with other former members of Santana—but without *Carlos*—on April 28 at the Araneta Coliseum, to be a major rock event?

In a recent phone chat with INQUIRER Entertainment at the dzRJ studios—in the company of radio jocks George Boone and Renen de Guia (also the concert promoter), Rolie talked extensively about his days as co-founder, lead singer and keyboardist of Santana. He recalled the band's memorable stint at Woodstock, and what he has learned in life as a rock musician.

TAKE FIVE

Serious music fans may have encountered your name in Santana and Journey album credits. Tell us where you come from and how you got into music.

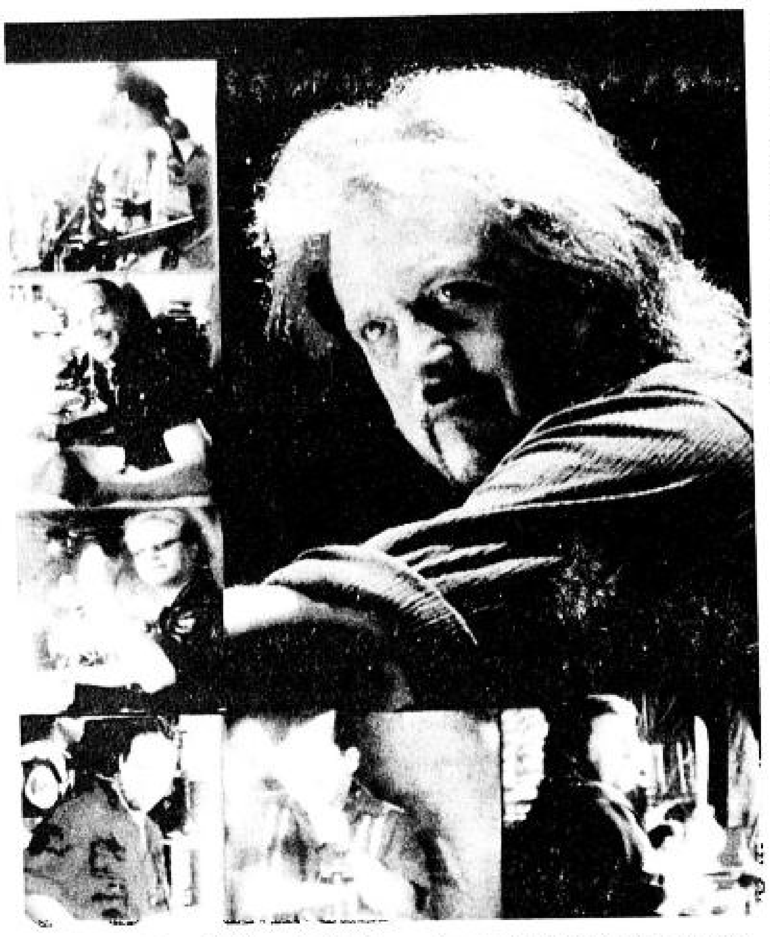
There were no musicians in the family but there was a piano in the house all the time and my brother and I both took up playing it. I just wanted to show my brother that I could play it as well as he did. It ended up being a career for me. I always liked playing my own stuff. I took lessons for about six weeks and that was it. I couldn't stand sitting there smelling [the teacher's] perfume and learning little scales. It just dragged me out. I got into a local band that was fairly big in the Bay Area and then I hooked up with Carlos Santana and a couple of his friends from Mission High School in San Francisco. Carlos and I wrote many songs for the original Santana band and it became the sound that you hear today.

So you were co-writer aside from being co-founder?

Sure. Also lead vocalist and keyboard player.

One of the defining moments at Woodstock 1969 was when Santana came on. Can you describe that?

Woodstock was supposed to be just another festival. But it turned into this phenomenal thing that has never happened since and probably will never happen again, where 500,000 people decided to go to a place because a handful of bands were gonna be there. We were lucky to be on the bill prior to having an album out. The people knew of the band but had not really heard it on the East Coast because we were a West Coast band. And that was kind of our introduction. They flew us to the place in helicopters because people parked on the highways and there was no way to drive in. When we drove out ... we had to do it at night, and it was endless. Driving through 500,000 people took a couple of hours. It was just amazing. And those were some of the best bands. If you were in Woodstock, and you performed well, you had a career. That's what happened to us.


GREGG Rolie and his band: "We have the energy of that old group."

Neal Schon joined Santana as second guitarist. Why did the two of you form Journey?

I left Santana because the whole band kinda fell apart. It was too much too soon for a bunch of young men. We all felt we knew what we were doing and we were just young and full of beans, an American phrase, and we were just full of it. The one thing we had in common was the music, and when we didn't have that anymore, that was it. We couldn't even talk about our differences. As for Journey ... I had been out of the music business for about a year and a half and started running a restaurant with my father up in Seattle, Washington, when Neal Schon and Herbie Herbert, who was the manager of Journey and was a road manager for Santana, gave me call and said they were putting a band together. I joined it. That band was Journey.

(Renen de Guia) In the 1980s, I watched the Santana concert in Manila and I was disappointed because some other guy was doing your songs.

I've personally stayed very true to the original Santana sound. This band that I've got ... the players are extraordinary. They understand the simplicity of that kind of music and do not overplay it. I've got Carabello from the original band on congas and Adrian Areas on timbales. Adrian's father is Chepito, the original timbale player. Alphonso Johnson, who played with Santana for five or six years, is on bass. I play keyboards and do the vocals. Kurt Griffey on guitar is a stunning player. Ron Wikso, on drums, w played with me in my band Storm. Keyboardist Walter Minko has played with Jean Luc Ponty and bands like Pink. Together, this group has the true essence of the original band. Everywhere we've gone that's what people said. They say, "Oh my God, it's just like going back." [Manila fans] will be pleasantly surprised. The group has the energy of that old band—even better, I think.

(George Boone) I don't know if it's only here in the Philippines that everybody thinks that it was Carlos who sang those songs, like "Oye Como Va." What can your fans look forward to? What are you going to be singing

We'll do "Evil Ways," "Black Magic Woman," "No One to Depend On," "Everybody's Everything," ... all the instrumentals as well, like "Jingo," "Soul Sacrifice," some obscure Santana songs that nobody has heard... an Albert King blues song that we twisted around... Santana did that years ago, and I sang on that as well. A few songs from my own "Roots" CD will show the direction we're taking now.

In other words ...

I guarantee that everybody will have a good time.

Does lifestyle have anything to do with your looking fit, considering that the '60s generation was, you know, freewheeling....

I attribute a lot to the fact that I quit going on the road. In December 1980 I quit Journey and stopped traveling the way all these other guys have been doing, and stayed home. I'm in pretty good shape.

What have you learned in the course of your long and rewarding music career?

Not to take things too seriously. That's the essence of it. If I take things too seriously, they stop being the gifts that they are ... that make people feel good. You should feel good playing music. You know, being a star is not all what it's cracked up to be. But being a good musician and having good people around you, and playing good music for other people is everything that it's supposed to be and more.

KILLER BABES

FROM VIDEO GAME TO THE BIG SCREEN

Gwyneth Paltrow look-alike Laurie Holden is the bad-ass babe Cybil in "Silent Hill".

Move over **Angelina Jolie** and **Milla Jovovich**, here comes the newest killer babes of Silent Hill---Radha Mitchell and Laurie Holden.

Laurie Holden is most noted for roles in The X-Files and The Fantastic Four, she now stars as the gun- totting, ass-kicking female cop in the year's most terrifying FX-driven action / horror movie "Silent Hill".

Laurie Holden talks about her role as the bad-ass babe Cybil in Silent Hill.

Can you talk a little bit about your characters?
She's a bit of a lone wolf, her mom died when she was thirteen and there was never really a father around. Because of that I think that she's been a bit of an outsider, doesn't have a lot of friends.

Do you act carefully and research your characters?
What's wonderful about the movie Silent Hill is that they honored her (Cybil), visually. I look like the character and really capture her essence. So her fans and the gamers and the audience will get to know her a little bit better.

Is there a scene that made you like jump when you were filming?

How many can I count? I mean, there are so many. This is a really scary movie. It's terrifying because it's so deeply ... rooted in psychological truths. It's actually quite terrifying because it's so deep. I have been scared out of my mind many, many times on this film. That's all good and right for the film. It's very real.

How much ass do you kick in this movie? And do you like kicking ass?

Also starring in "Silent Hill" is Radha Mitchell.

We kick a lot of ass and I loved every minute of it. I have a trainer and the stunt coordinator has been just so amazing marking out the fights. And I met with a detective ... so that I learned, you know, accurately, how a detective, police officer moves and everything and how to work with all my props and weapons and it's just been so much fun. ADVT.

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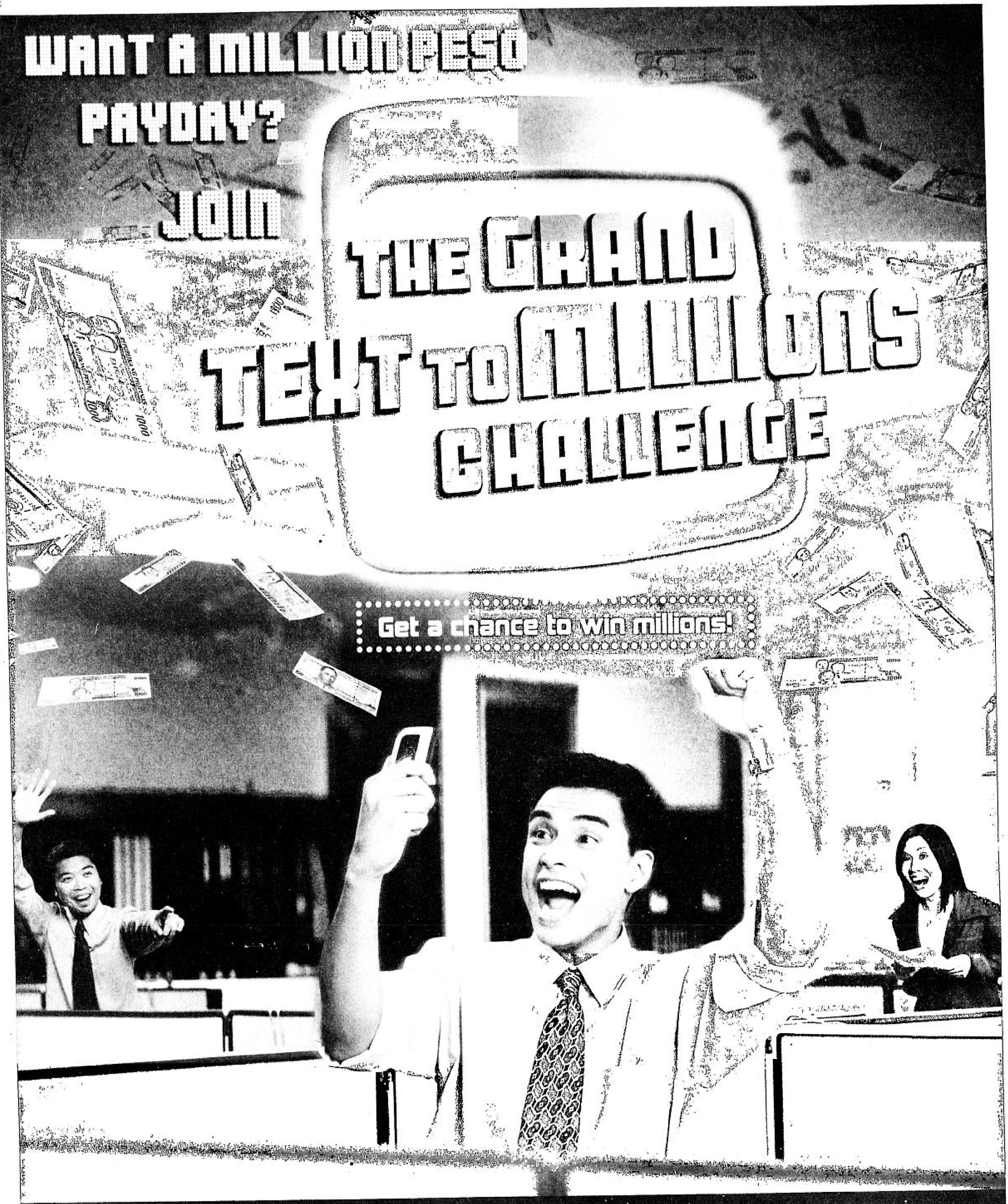
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The amazons of Mindanao

Women who fought a war, now farm the land

TERESITA Magimlas-Salido

KAGI Dina Ampuan-Ambel

IN A SECLUDED VILLAGE named Kilada in Matalam, North Cotabato, lives a group of women who could appropriately be called the "Amazons of Mindanao."

Like the race of women warriors who fought like men and at times conquered them as portrayed in the myths of ancient Greece, these women have also survived and triumphed through numerous armed battles.

The women belonged at one time, to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Women's State Revolutionary Committee. Although most of the news reports on the war between the government and the MNLF did not mention them, their contribution to the revolution was considered vital by their male counterparts. It was the ladies, for example, who crossed the firing lines to supply new ammunition to the combatants and who often took up arms to replace wounded male comrades. The women aver that the war forced them to recognize hidden strengths that they never knew they possessed.

"We found ourselves performing tasks we could not think of doing in normal circumstances, and we were amazed at how well we did them," says Kagi Dina Ampuan-Ambel, who serves as the women's cluster leader.

Most of them lacked medical experience and training, yet they were enlisted as infantry medics who treated wounded soldiers, even under fire, and who nursed them back to health in the camps.

"It was crazy. You could actually feel bullets missing you by inches but somehow the thought that our family and children were waiting for us to get back home made us think we were invincible," Kagi Dina recollects.

Most of the women had children, for whose care they remained responsible, even while filling their roles as combatants.

"I once had to cross an Army checkpoint carrying weapons inside my *malong*. I had just given birth then and was still lactating. Because I was so scared I could not control my milk from flowing. They must have taken pity of me and decided to let me go without checking what I was hiding inside," Teresita Mangimlas-Salido, a mother of nine, recounts.

From amazons to farmers

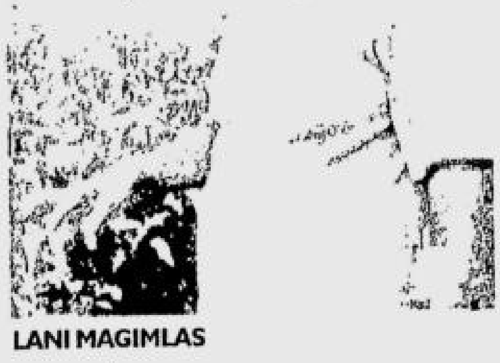
Almost a decade after the signing of the seminal peace agreement with the Philippine government, the women in this village are living a new, richer and less hazardous life. Now far removed from the threat of bullets, and the cries of wounded comrades they have rebuilt their communities and have started life anew with their families.

"We went back to our communities after the war. But the problem was, we didn't have anything left to start from except our land," says Salido who, after the war, was elected as a barangay councilor of her village.

The USAID-funded Emergency Livelihood Assistance Program (Elap) came to their assistance by providing all necessary inputs for the production of corn. Under Kagi Dina's leadership, the cluster—composed of 55 former women combatants—was able to plant 110 hectares of corn. The program supported them through two crop cycles, from which they earned a total of P2.2 million.

After gaining experience in the growing and selling of their corn crop, Ambel and members of her cluster traveled to other areas of North Cotabato to help oversee the turnover of seeds and production inputs to

THE AMAZONS/ B2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Dad finds a business solution to son's illness

SEVEN YEARS AGO, Peter Binamira got news no father would ever want to hear: His only child was very sick.

"My son Peter Allan was only 14 years old when he was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma, a disease that could have been caused by his frequent cycling expeditions to as far as Caliraya, where he could have inhaled the toxic carcinogenic air pollutants from the city," Binamira explains.

Devastated and helpless from his family's three-year ordeal with the chemotherapy sessions to fight off the disease, he soon found productive ways to deal with his battle by searching for ways to clean up the air, the very air that could have killed his son to death.

A graduate of Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila and Master's in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Binamira believes that every opportunity is found in seemingly unsurmountable problems. He knew that motoring in itself was good, having been exposed to it at a young age when his dad, Ramon, was behind Esso's campaign to bring the company closer to the people.

But he counters, "toxic substances have somehow found its way to being emitted by today's vehicles and has become an alarming cause of many deadly diseases."

He searched the net for ways to curb the worsening air pollution problem affecting most countries today, especially the Philippines.

PETER and Peter ALLAN Binamira

And what he found did not surprise him.

He recounts, "When I Googled on the web looking for solutions that can be utilized to solve the problem, I discovered that many developing countries have already discovered similar technologies that were found effective in lessening the polluted air in our surroundings. But I found the cost too expensive for this country and so I searched some more until I came upon a manufacturer in Pakistan."

He continues, "There is really a need for this country to push for fuel efficiency, what with our dependency on imported oil, so I was also searching for a solution that would address this at the same time lessen the harmful emissions that we get from vehicle fumes."

And that was when he started negotiating with the Maliks of Pakistan for a technology that helps prevent less harmful emissions. The Maliks, carry the similar technology invented by a French engineer in World War II—a fuel metal alloy catalyst made of chrome-plated mild steel canister with predominantly tin pellets inside that allows for better fuel combustion. This means more power, less harmful emissions and less maintenance.

"Late last year I proceeded in securing exclusive distributorship of the Economax here in the Philippines. And when I tried it here, I've observed amazing results."

Years after their family's battle with his son's disease, he now takes it upon himself to initiate an alternative crusade to do something about the worsening conditions of the air we breathe in.

"What everybody doesn't realize is when we don't do anything about it, there are great social effects to each one of us. People think the situation is bad, but they don't really know how bad it is," he says.

He feels that bringing this technology to the Philippines is simply doing his fair share in being a responsible citizen.

"In other countries, it is mandated that vehicles should have catalytic converters to lessen their harmful emissions, but we don't have that here in the Philippines, so this is really the best we could do, we should take it as our own initiative to do something about it before things get worse," he commented.

His once sickly son has bravely won the battle against his disease. "He even races and is an active flight simulation enthusiast," proudly exclaims Binamira.

But he never wants anybody to go through the same experience he did so he now actively advocates for a cleaner air for every Filipino.

Binamira's Economax has been tested and proven in many countries to boast of much-needed features that every motorist's vehicle should be armed with: improves mileage (App. 20% petrol, 15% diesel); improves power (bhp); eliminates hi-octane usage; longer life of oil and filters; quick start & better pickup; knocking free engin e performance; cleaner engine parts; longer maintenance periods; reduced exhaust emissions; easy to install; and effective up to 400,000 kilometers.

The Economax will be launched at the first ever Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) Auto Show set to stir the movers and shakers of the motoring industry on May 12-14, at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Formerly the Philippine Motor Association (PMA), the AAP heads for a promising future in the motoring industry by looking back to its glorious past and highlighting its milestones and achievements through the years.

AAP Auto Show gathers the biggest names in motor sports and auto industry. Car and truck manufacturers, assemblers, makers and dealers of auto parts and accessories, oil and alternative fuel companies, service shops and maintenance companies, government agencies and related associations will take part in the said event.

For more information, call the AAP 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration Secretariat at tel. nos. 723- 0808, 705-1900, 832-5401 or 832-5422.

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Build up for children's education

ENROLLMENT SEASON IS HERE ONCE again and at this time each year, parents flock to the schools to pay tuition fees for their children's education. It is a tedious task, oftentimes financially draining, especially with rising costs of education and under the present economic conditions.

To prepare for this time, parents usually set aside a portion of their earnings for this need. Some put their funds in low-earning bank deposits or time deposits. Some have invested in educational plans, but these are not without problems. More adventurous individuals place their money in higher earning, but riskier instruments like the stock market.

There are now better options to save for the education of children. One of these is the UITF or Unit Investment Trust Fund. UITFs are open-ended pooled trust funds denominated in pesos or any acceptable currency, which are operated and administered by a trust entity, or trustee, and made available by participation.

UITFs are a good choice since the trustee invests the fund in various types of securities to maximize returns within reasonable risk levels. As an open-ended trust fund, clients are allowed to invest or redeem their investments at any time after the holding period, usually 90 days, as stated in its plan rules to avoid early redemption charges.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank), one of the country's leaders in trust banking, provides this affordable, medium risk, but higher yielding financial instrument through the Metro Invest Plus, a convenient and easy monthly savings program.

With a minimum initial participation of P5,000, this multi-purpose UITF allows individual investors to build up their fund through additional placements of at least P1,500 monthly for two years in anticipation of possible major purchases or expenditures in the future.

A plus feature that clients have been enjoying since this UITF's introduction last April 2005 is the insurance coverage that delivers the three-fold advantage of a life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment and total and permanent disability income benefits. At the end of the build-up period, Metro Invest Plus gives the client more reason to continue staying in the fund by entitling them to enjoy additional insurance coverage equivalent to a 12-month contribution.

This monthly build-up program plus the three-fold insurance coverage endow the Metro Invest Plus as one of the better options for educational savings plans. It secures an investor's objectives in the future of which the education of their children ranks high in terms of priorities.

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For more information on Metro Invest Plus and other products, please visit any Metrobank branch nationwide or call 580-9500.

The Amazons of Mindanao

From page B1

other clusters of the former rebel group.

"The program came at a point where it meant the difference between going back to battle and living a normal life. As the wife of the state chairman then, I felt it was my duty to see that everyone got her share of the prize for which we risked our lives," Kagi Dina states.

Women power

In June 2005, USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program, which is operated in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), provided additional assistance by helping the group of former women combatants—who had become experienced producers—to diversify their crops to include higher value commodities. A week after the women attended a training-workshop on vegetable production, the group reserved one hectare of its vegetable farm and planted higher value vegetables.

"I was surprised at how quickly they managed to put up their farm. Usually it takes about a month for a cluster of men to establish a vegetable farm, but this group broke the record. And soon enough, they were reaping the benefits," remembers Edwin Ligahon, an agriculture technician working for GEM's Targeted Commodity Expansion Program (TCEP), which provided the assistance to the group.

The women also proved to be much better at managing their new enterprise. Like the amazons who were believed to have created an empire of their own without the help from men, they too established their farms with their own inner resources.

"Not only did they act quickly, they also surpassed the village's local men in terms of area of production and income earned," adds Ligahon who was impressed at how systematically the group of women worked.

"We have women assigned to do land preparation, there is also another group assigned to tend the nursery, and another assigned solely to find markets for our own strengths, so we draw on those unique attributes to contribute to the greater good of the group," she adds.

Lani Mangimlas, for instance, a single woman at 40, is the group's land tiller. She plows the land with the help of her own carabao, which she bought in late 1999, when she received her share of the group's production income.

Because plowing is usually done during the early morning, and most of the women have families and children to attend to, she does the job on her own.

"It's a tough job. We now have a total land area of 1.5 hectares and I'm the only one who plows it. But it's my way of helping my sisters with families," the proud single woman says.

Gathering the sweet fruits of their labor

During planting and harvesting, however, every member helps. On a warm February afternoon, the women gather to harvest the field of hybrid table tomatoes that they have been tending for five days. Prevailing prices in the local wet markets of Kidapawan City and Cotabato City peg the price of tomatoes at P20-25 per kilo. With a total harvest of 70 kilos, the women will earn P1,400 from this harvest alone.

"This is only our first harvest from this cropping. We will be harvesting from this crop on a weekly basis for up to two months," explains Mangimlas who heads the group assigned to manage the production area.

Their eggplant field is also contributing to the group's growing economic success since the farm gate price of eggplant ranges from P7-P9 per kilo. From a field of 3,000 eggplant trees, the group has earned more than P10,000.

Aside from producing tomatoes and eggplants, the ladies produce other semi-temperate vegetables including bitter gourd, sweet pepper, beans and pechay. They have harvested three metric tons of various crops in just six months, a feat which has earned the group an additional P34,000.

Fulfilling new dreams

The women are now testing the viability of producing other high value crops such as cauliflower. This vegetable, which fetches a price of P80-100 per kilo, requires a cool, moist climate and a sunny spot for growing. It also needs lots of water, supplied on an even, regular basis.

"Our area is conducive to growing this vegetable because we live near a river, so moisture can be maintained all through the year. I think we can really do this," says the optimistic Mangimlas.

Meanwhile, the women are using the income from their earlier harvests to buy calculators, new weighing scales , garden tools and sacks of seeds and fertilizer to fulfill their plan to expand their production area.

Besides expanding production, the former women combatants plan to open a store in Kidapawan market where they will sell their produce and command higher retail prices.

"We have grand plans for the future. We will use whatever strength we have to make those plans happen. If we can do it for the revolution, we can certainly do it for our children," says Kagi Dina.

Turkish mission to push trade with RP

TURKEY HAS ACHIEVED progress and financial stability in the last four years.

In terms of year-on-year changes in the consumer price index (CPI), inflation decelerated from 68.5 percent at the end of 2001 to 9.3 percent at the end of 2004, and further to 8 percent at the end of 2005, representing the lowest annual CPI figure for the last 35 years.

With the private sector as the driving force, it is now enjoying one of the longest stretches of economic growth with an annual average growth rate of 8 percent for the last three years.

Foreign trade is an important determinant in the Turkish economy. Since 1980, it has established itself as free market economy, liberalized its foreign trade, and became highly integrated with the global economic system.

The country's foreign trade has continuously expanded under liberal trade policies reaching a volume of $190 billion at the end of 2005, thus becoming the world's 22nd largest exporting country with total export volume of $73 billion. It also ranked as the top 16th importer in the world with total imports of $116 billion.

For this reason, a new strategy towards the African countries was put into effect in 2003. The results attained in terms of trade development reached $7.7 billion, a 76 percent cumulative increase between 2003-2005.

During the previous year, Turkey initiated the "Trade Development Strategy Towards the Asia Pacific Countries," which has generated promising returns that are seen to exceed its average export growth rate.

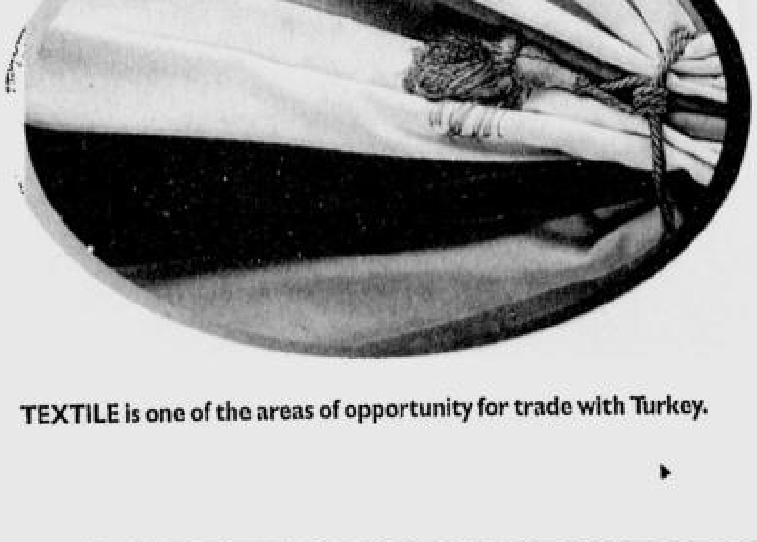
On May 11-12, Manila will host a Turkish trade mission composed of 50 Turkish companies looking for prospective agents, distributors, and trade partners in the Philippines.

These companies are manufacturers/producers of food and agricultural products (including dairy products, vegetables, flour, pasta, biscuits, confectionery and chocolates, fruit juice, olive oil, tomato paste and ketchup, dried fruits, yeast, tobacco); textile (to include woven fabric, synthetic filament yarn, woven pile fabric, home textile, carpets and kilims); construction materials (to include marble, travertine, brick, concrete, aluminum and tin plate, materials made from iron and steel, copper, and materials made from copper, others).

"Turkey is determined more than ever to take full advantage of its location in bridging different groups, countries, geographies and cultures to improve its commercial relations all over the world." said Imran Er, Trade Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey.

The 2-day trade mission will be held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. A half-day Market Briefing on Turkey will be conducted ahead of the one-on-one business meetings between Turkish and Philippine companies, which will be pre-scheduled on a "first come, first served" basis. Participation to these activities is free-of-charge. For inquiries, call 889-4636 / 843-9705 ext. 104, fax: 889-4637 or email: trmanila@pldtdsl.net.

Total exports of $73 billion dollars in 2005 marked an increase of over 100 percent from 2002.


TEXTILE is one of the areas of opportunity for trade with Turkey.

'Promoting and protecting Church and State'

Pope Benedict XVI confers title on former Securities and Exchange Commission chair

PHOTO above shows (seated L-R): Charito Melchor, Lilia Bautista, Consuelo Y. Santiago, Cleofe Verzola, and Tessie Sison; (standing L-R): Araceli Reyes, Delia Hermoso, and Ester Cruz. Left photo shows Lilia with Baby Santos, Gov. Bellaflor Angara Castillo, and Josie Poblador.

FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF FORMER Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia R. Bautista celebrated the conferment on her of the title, Dame of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great. The title was conferred on her by His Holiness, Pope Benedict the XVI in 2005. Lilia's formal investiture as Dame of this Order took place last April 20, 2006.

The significance of the conferment of this title on Lilia was not lost on her friends. Only a handful of females in the Philippines have been awarded this title. Lilia Bautista was recognized as "an exemplary daughter of the Church who has rendered apostolic works on its behalf as an officer of Legion of Mary and who has tirelessly served the Catholic cause."

She was also recognized for her more than 30 years of service in the government. In the positions she held (such as Secretary of Trade and Industry, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Nations, World Trade Organization and International Labor Organization and, more recently as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission), she was recognized as having "zealously endeavored to promote and protect the welfare of both Church and State".

The celebration held in Lilia's honor was, as expected, dominated by females and lawyers. It was hosted by three Poblador ladies: Josie, Ting and Gigi, all of whom are either lawyers by profession or married to lawyers. From the Government and the Bar came Justice Consuelo Ynares Santiago, Justice Flerida Ruth Romeo, Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, Governor Bellaflor Angara Castillo, Fe Eloisa Gloria, Asuncion Kalalo, Edith Nolledo, Tes Sison, Esther Cruz, Araceli Reyes, Delia Hermoso, Cleofe Verzola, Baby Santos, Doris San Pedro, Eva Bautista and Maricel Lopez.

Other guests were Undersecretary Edsel Custodio, Ambassador Tita de Villa, also a papal awardee, Ambassador Ching Escaler, Corazon de la Paz, Ofelia Bulaong, Bing Padilla, Cesar Purisima, Emil Bonoan, Rosario Melchor, Ogot San Pedro, Peter Garrucho, Tom Syquia, Maricon Bautista, Lizanne Uychaco and Carmeling Salgado.

Lilia said she was honored by the award, coming as it did after the problems attending her promised nomination to another post. In the end, what comforted her were her unwavering faith and abiding friendship.

Fil-Am comes home to invest in country's human capital

Right Idea.
Right Solutions.
Right People.
Right Now.

RIVERA

FILIPINO-AMERICAN MICHAEL "MIKE" Rivera came back to the Philippines in last September and was floored by the country's teeming talent that he decided to put up the first offshore company that exclusively catered to employee benefits administration here.

Rivera is the president of ProView Global, a company under the US-based ProView Administration, one of the leading employee benefits outsourcing firms in the United States whose clients include leading hospitals, hotels, and manufacturing and real estate companies.

He was in that industry for over 17 years and has helped developed one of the United States' first systems for HMO Management, working extensively with Fortune 500 companies for over a decade.

"I realized that there was an incredible amount of untapped human capital here," says Rivera, who left the country in 1979. "I read and witnessed the exodus of talent from this country, as I refer to as 'brain drain' in search of better opportunities. That's when I realized that what this country needed were investments to create better job opportunities."

When his family first migrated to Seattle, Washington, he experienced the stigma of racial discrimination as he and his siblings were the only Asian kids in their community.

"I overcame this by focusing on my education," Rivera says. "I remember feeling particularly proud in receiving high honors for US History and English. In a way, I wanted to prove to everybody that I could be better at their own language and their own history."

When he finally finished high school, Rivera's family couldn't afford to send him through college.

"I got a partial scholarship in computer science in one of the smaller colleges in the Seattle, Washington, but I had to turn it down. I just felt that it wasn't the thing for me," he says.

As fate would have it, Rivera made the right decision since he eventually got the opportunity to get the college degree he wanted.

Rivera joined the Marines at 17 despite his mother's objections.

Out of the 160 recruits, only 80 of them graduated. "And I was at the top of my class," Rivera says.

It was this experience in the Marines, he says, that taught him discipline, goal setting, and determination.

Right after college, Rivera was hired as an administrative assistant for an insurance company and eventually went on to work for a firm that handled employee benefits management, one of the biggest industries in the United States right now.

Employee benefits administration involves the handling of the insurance benefits of a company's workforce. In the United States, much like here, medical and other benefits are generally provided for by employers, and the cost of administering these benefits can be quite high. These benefits range from the traditional medical and dental benefits to the more complex Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Cobra) that provide a continuation of health care coverage even after an employee has left a company.

Prior to joining ProView, Rivera was the National Leader of Supply Chain Management for the Group and Health Care practice at Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

Last year, Rivera decided to come home for the first time in over 20 years.

"I was reading some business papers that time and I realized that the country had a significant amount of intellectual capital here," he says.

This made him decide to create what he calls a "win-win" situation for both ProView and his (home) country.

"Employee benefits administration is highly labor-intensive. Seeing that the Filipinos here can replicate if not surpass the quality of work that we have in the US, I decided that I'd wanted to provide opportunities for the talent here," Rivera says.

And he is not just talking about providing opportunities for his countrymen, but giving them better salary deals as well.

"I wanted to make sure that ProView paid more than the prevailing wages. Our staff's salaries, depending on the role, can be as much as 30% more than the current market average compensation rates. Our human capital strategy is to attract the highest caliber of talent, who will provide more quality service to our customers and at the same time create a much more loyal human capital asset base. The way you take care of your employees will exactly be the same they would take care of your clients.," Rivera explains, adding that he is aware that most business process outsourcing companies in the country have a relatively high turnover rate, something he is looking to change.

ProView, which has started operations about a month ago, currently has 20 employees whose ages range from 20 to 45.

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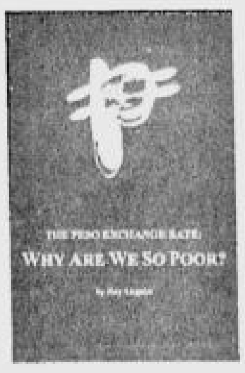

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Money makes a rebel go round

Text and Photos by EV Espiritu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—WHO NEEDS government to rise above poverty in a province inured to imperial Manila? Ernesto Garido didn't.

He used to go by the moniker "Ka Sungar" when he abandoned a career as a private contractor to fight the Marcos government alongside communist rebels in the 1970s, and former rebel priest Conrado Balweg in the 1980s.

But folks here know Garido more for getting things done. He helped form the New People's Army's elite Lumbaya company of Cordillera fighters, which became the core members of Balweg's Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

Right after Balweg signed in 1987 the first peace agreement after the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos, Garido led efforts to provide livelihood to retired rebels in the Cordillera.

Garido tapped the United Nations Development Program for livelihood funds, only to be stymied by the interference of Malacañang functionaries.

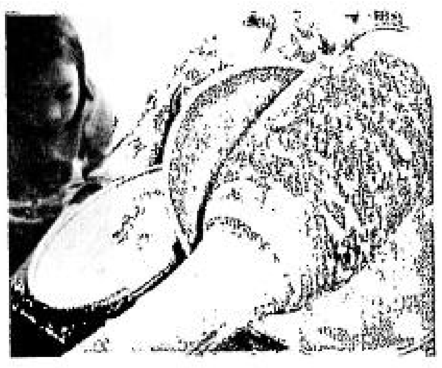
Garido says he was emboldened instead to pursue business to prove to fellow rebels that life could be fulfilling even without government.

He took a P300,000 bank loan in 2005 to build a fishpond, a piggery for 50 hogs and a pen for 100 ducks and to raise chickens on a 550-square meter lot in Barangay Samoki here.

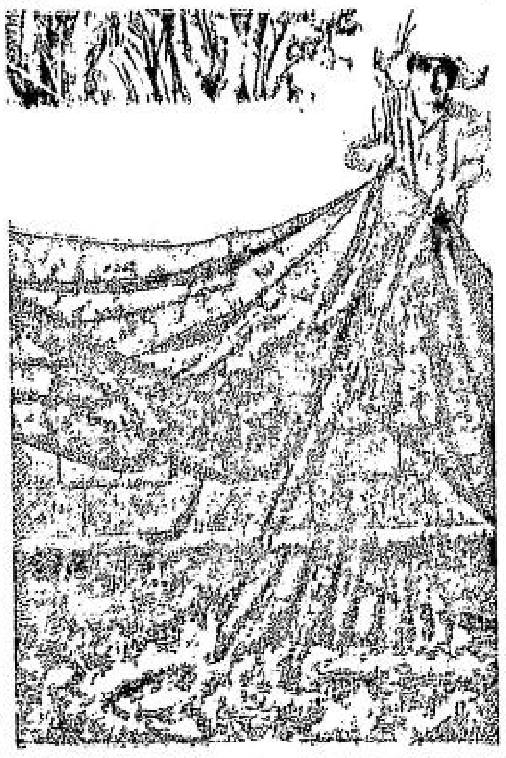
Garido's success was well promoted during the recent Lang-ay Festival here, which showcased trade products from Mt. Province.

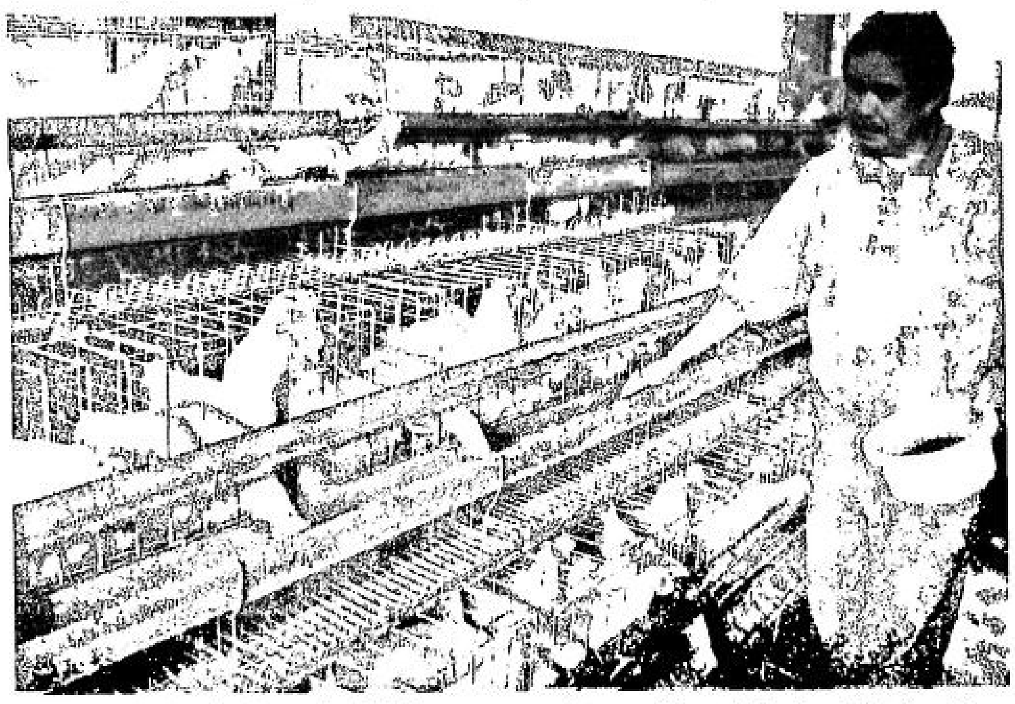
Alongside the longest ube (yam), Samoki's priced pottery exhibits and biggest gabi (taro) were boastful commentaries about how this former rebel easily earns P1,000 a day from the eggs he sells and the *tilapia* he propagates.

SAMOKI POTTERY. The pots of Barangay Samoki are its biggest economic assets, drawing the interest of tourists each year.



MT PROVINCE DELICACIES. The recent Lang ay festival, an annual trade and cultural show, featured the longest ube crop (above), the largest gabi crop (left) and the sweetest linnapet (above left) to prove the exquisite cuisine in this part of the country.





REBEL YELL. Ernesto "Ka Sungar" Garido, a retired rebel who fought Marcos in the 70s as a communist guerrilla and a leader of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, has produced a business without government's help. He took a loan to build this fishpond and this chicken coop to prove to fellow rebels that they can be economically sound without government help.

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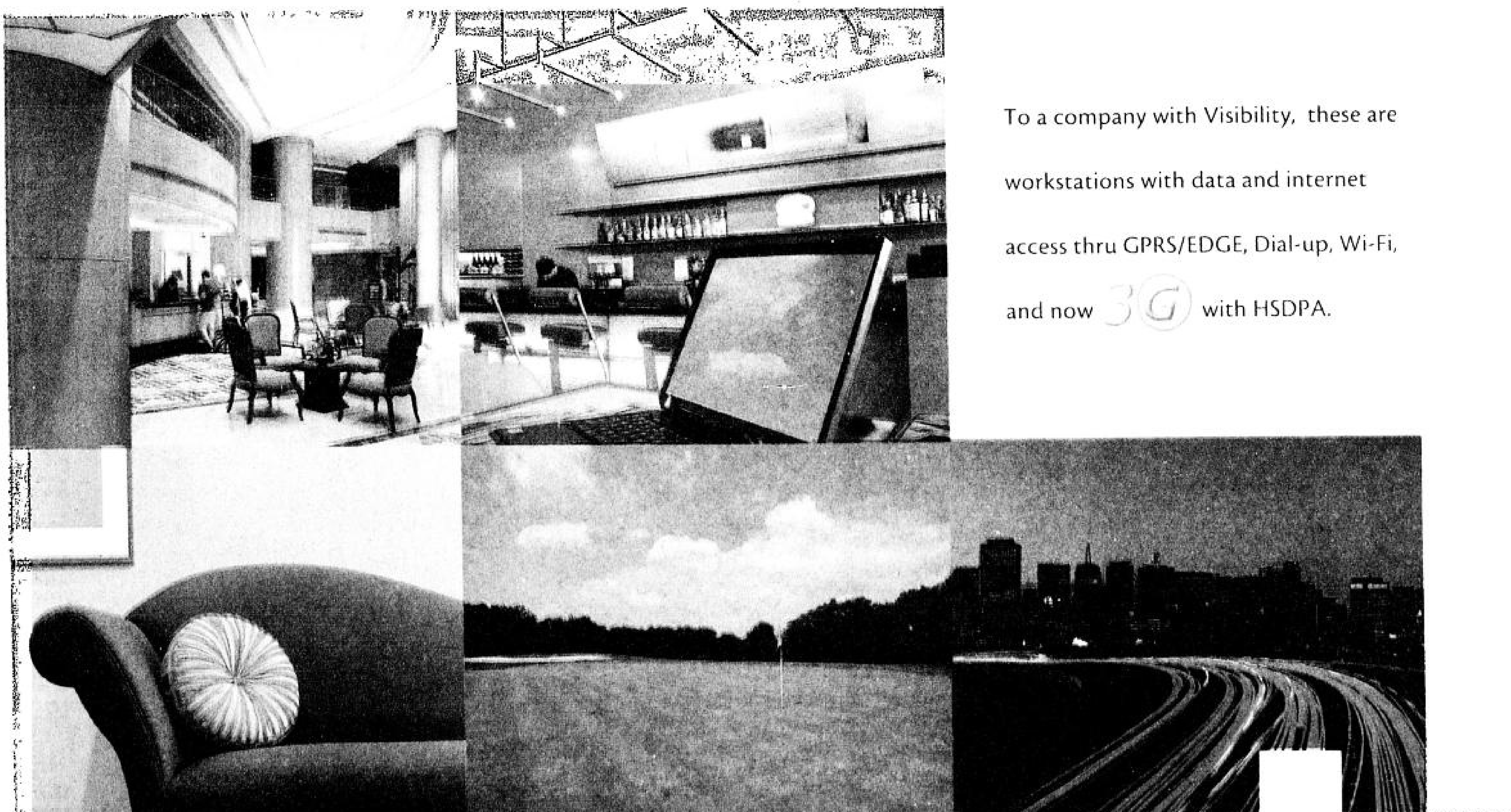

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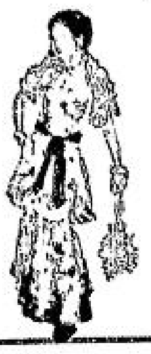

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Sunday LifeStyle

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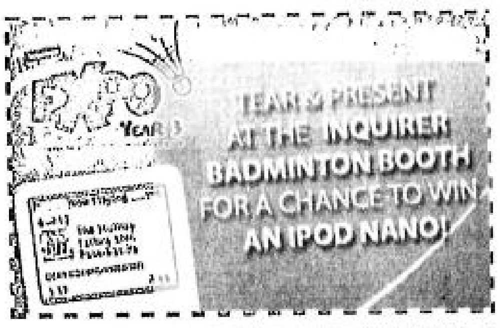


TEAR & PRESENT AT THE INQUIRER BADMINTON BOOTH FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN IPOD NANO!

Her Imeldific wants a 'companion'

T'NT Trends & Trendings

Anton San Diego

THE BRITISH TATLER INTERVIEWS IMELDA Marcos. The former First Lady is the subject of an eight-page spread in the UK Tatler. The cover blurb: "Imelda Marcos—The hilarious world of excess."

Although the interview does not unearth anything we Filipinos don't know, it is a look at the woman's resilience, humor, thoughts and life. Here are some excerpts from the Imeldific interview:

On the Australian musical about her: "This British musician, this Fatboy Slim," she fumes, ... "I would prefer him not to make this musical of my life—but there is nothing I can do. I would rather do it myself! Show the people the real me, the real Imelda!"

On age: "I am almost 77! Someone said to me, 'I thought you were dead. But you look beautiful!' Well yeah—50 years ago and 50 pounds ago I looked great."

On corruption: "Eventually not one conviction of corruption! So now I don't get angry when people call me a criminal. I'm not a criminal, just as much as I am not cross-eyed.".

On Marcos , love and relationships: "Together we were the father and mother of the nation. Beyond eternity I love him. Mind you, many men have tried to take me out, even when he was alive... There is no replacement for Marcos. I do not date... I would never marry again—but I would like to have a companion."

What we don't know is that Ms Marcos, while surrounded by aides, guards and loyal friends, shares her bed with someone: Venus, her dog.

And of course, the question of shoes: "They said it was 3,000. But in fact it was more like... er... 200. But as I say at least when they went into my closet they found shoes, not skeletons."

Is she the next princess of England? I am sorry, ladies, but the world's most eligible bachelor might be engaged soon. Who is the lucky woman? Her name is Kate Middleton, and she may fill very big shoes indeed as she is speculated to be engaged soon to Prince William.

They first met in 2001 when they were attending the University of St. Andrews. They eventually became flatmates in 2002. But only in December of 2003 did their relationship become the subject of tea talk and tabloids.

The subject of engagement reached fever pitch when Kate met the Queen in 2005. The Queen reportedly approved of the young lady. She was also given 24-hour royal protection because of paparazzi and stalkers.

In a recent Hello magazine article, she was photographed with Prince Charles and the Duchess of Corn, I mean Cornwall, the Prince's eternal love Camilla, at the races.

So is Middleton the next princess and the woman for William? Bookers say she has an 80 percent chance, so watch out for a royal wedding soon and wish for a "happily-ever-after" fairytale story.

"Gawker Stalker." There is a website that promotes stalking and is actually proud of it. Gawker is the "national go-to spot for keeping up with the rich and scandalous, the media elite and the pop-culture trends of the moment," according to the New York Times.

Recently, it added another site to its already infamous website, "Gawker Stalker" which, as you can guess, stalks famous people wherever they are and whatever they are doing.

Sightings are e-mailed by readers and placed on the Gawker map. Curious to know where Matt Damon is or if Nicole Kidman is shopping at Neiman's? Then check out this website.

Although celebrity obsession has a downside, there is still no reported Russell Crowe or Naomi Campbell headline-hogging outburst, only an irate George Clooney telling people to e-mail the Gawker editors and falsify the whereabouts of the celebrities.

For more stalking log on to www.gawker.com/stalker

Must-have "cult" label fashion. Monkeying around may not be all that bad if you ask A Bathing Ape (BAPE) owner DJ Nigo.

Nigo founded BAPE in 1993 as a homage to the original 1960s version of "Planet of the Apes." It instantly became a huge hit with the Japanese youth and global street culture.

What makes it so popular? Think "exclusivity" and "unattainability." BAPE makes limited-edition garments like 15 jackets or 150 shirts for his stores in Japan, New York, and specialized boutiques all over the world.

Nigo recently opened a store in Hong Kong. People lined up on the streets to get the stuff.

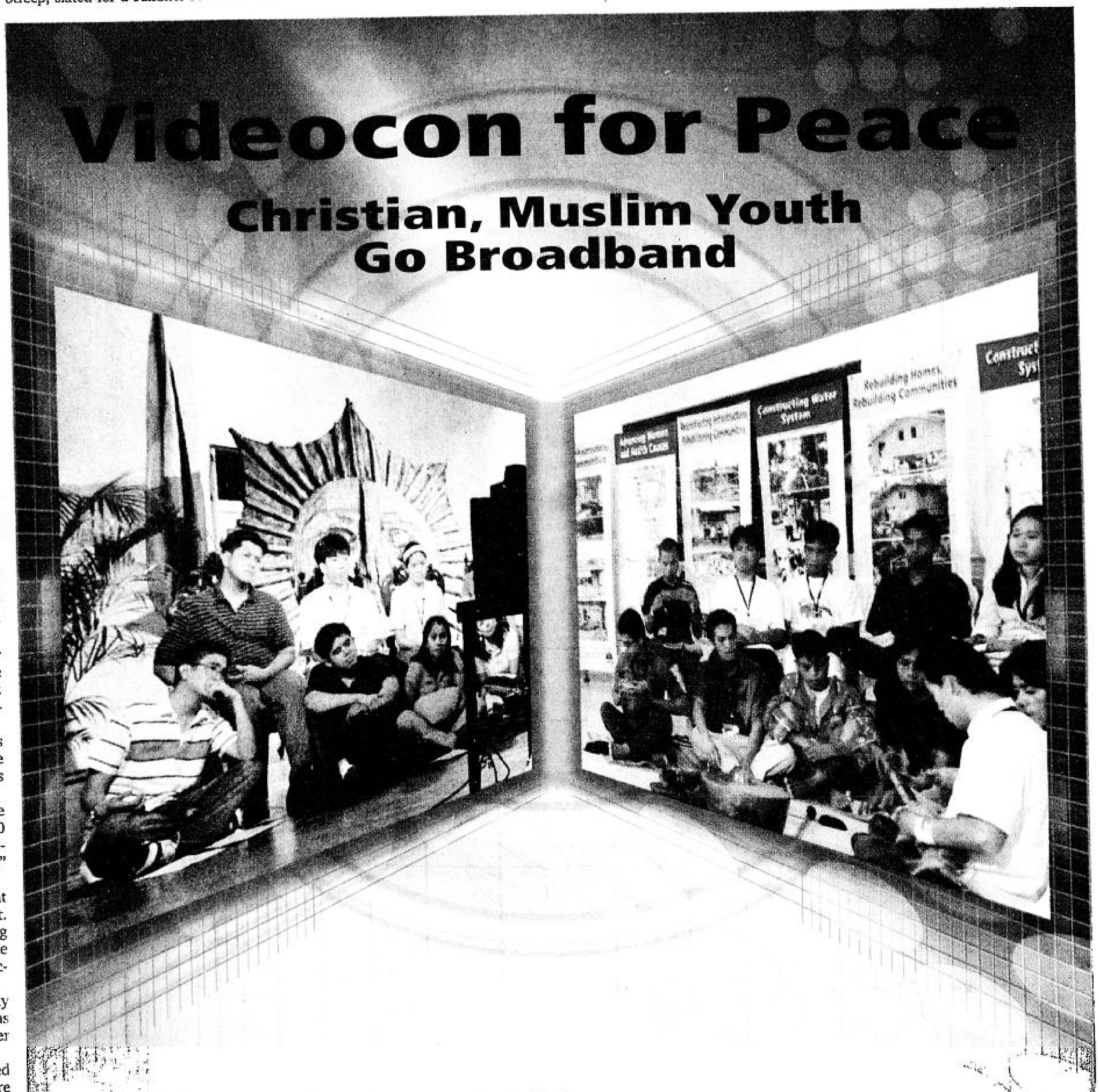
According to one totally "aped" fan, "BAPE is not only a streetwear label. Its camouflage print is to kids what the Louis Vuitton monogram pattern is to the ladies who lunch. It is a religion."

TNT tidbits. Here are some hot TNT morsels to chew on for the week.

Spotted in Chanel haute couture show in HK and on the popular website Style.com are hip, hot and stylish Filipinas Audrey Puckett Chiu and Wendy Puyat Hotung... Michael Bolton came to Manila, sang and left. He may not have the same hype and hair as he did in the '80s, but his voice remains intact, powerful and awesome... Colin Farrell's reported sex video is for real. I got myself a copy showing the bad boy romping in bed with his beautiful *mulatta* Playboy playmate, and all I can say is Mr. Farrell is more than well-equipped. (As for the video's Oscar buzz, it has none, but it scores points for dialogue and Farrell's convincing acting)... There's only one word for the Zara opening in Glorietta, "Hooray!" ... Watch out for " The Devil wears Prada—the movie, starring Meryll Streep, slated for a summer release... On the "American Idol," the heat is on despite the fact I have not gotten over Mandisa being booted out. I place my bet on Chris... "Pinoy Big Brother's" winner Keanna Reeves is a wonderful lady. I met her at a dinner with Ben Chan, Miguel Pastor, Keren Pascual and Mons Tantoco two days after her win and she was simply a breath of fresh air. She was funny, honest and genuine. She's proof that second chances are a godsend and do work. TNT wishes her the best and more success!

E-mail comments to antonsd@philtalter.com

ON THE PAGES of British Tatler, former First Lady Imelda Marcos with Prince Charles in an old photo



Videocon for Peace

Christian, Muslim Youth Go Broadband

It would have been an expensive undertaking and a logistical challenge.

Bringing together several hundred Christian and Muslim youth from Manila and Mindanao to talk about peace would have required money for transportation, lodging, and food as well as some amount of intricate planning that goes with preparations for such events.

But it can be simpler with the use of broadband communications technology.

Recently, PLDT, the leading telecommunications provider in the Philippines, sponsored a videoconference between 300 students in Manila and 22 youth leaders in Cotabato City. Fully aware of the problems plaguing the relationship between the religions and cultures, the two groups used the opportunity to share their opinions and personal experiences, as well as exchange questions about the social and political differences between Christians and Muslims in the country.

Called "Ugnay Kabataan," the event marked a milestone in Christian-Muslim youth dialogue in the country.

REAL-TIME CONVERSATION

PLDT provided high-speed leased lines and video cameras, digital projectors, and audio equipment in the two venues—De La Salle University's William Shaw Little Theater in Manila and the St. Joseph Retreat House in Cotabato City. The participants were able to see and hear one another clearly, allowing for animated conversations in real time.

This is called videoconferencing and it is routinely used by companies to hold meetings or conferences of people located in different places. In this case, broadband technology was placed in the service of the pursuit of peace.

PATH TO PEACE

The set-up was favored by the technology-savvy youth. New contacts between two cultures were formed. Some participants agreed to stay in touch through post or through email, while special programs and projects, such as exchange student arrangements and newsletters, are currently being developed. The Assisi Development Foundation is also planning a follow-up videoconference with youth peace camps later this year.

This is just the first step. Much still needs to be done. While the path to peace is not simple, the important thing is that they got the ball rolling.

With the help of broadband technology.

PLDT

THE COUPLE with Raffy del Rosario, Michelle Aquino, Stephanie Zubiri, Boj Pineda and Raffy Ladao

SECRETARY Mike Defensor, Mayor Hernani Braganza, Rep. Ace Barbers, Secretary Nonoy Andaya, Rep. Ricky Sandoval sing a song to the newlyweds.

YAYING Dragon, Girlie Araneta Dayrit, Baby Serrano Araneta, Vicky Zubiri, Monsour del Rosario, Connie Araneta and Gigi Garcia

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, Gina de Venecia and Kate Gordon

DR. ROLAND Hortaleza and Nelia Cortez

ZUBIRI-TAN NUPTIALS

Meant for each other

By Maurice Arcache

WHEN HANDSOME MIGUEL ZUBIRI and stunningly beautiful Audrey Tan first met almost six years ago, neither one of them thought they would end up together.

Miguel is quick to admit he was enchanted with the young model even back then. On the other hand, he was Audrey's high-school crush. And that was precisely the problem—Audrey was in high school, 13 years his junior, while he was on his first term as representative of Bukidnon.

But cupid has his way of bringing people together. Soon their paths would cross again. This time, Audrey was more mature, a VJ and a college student at the Ateneo de Manila University. Miguel was on his second term as a representative.

They began dating and everything seemed to fit just right, like tea and crumpet. Two years later, Miguel proposed, presenting her with a beautiful princess-cut diamond ring. The pair became happily engaged but the wedding had to be put off as Audrey pursued her post-graduate studies in Madrid, Spain.

Foggy afternoon

And so it was only last December that the couple finally tied the romantic knot, *palanggas*. They wanted an out-of-town garden wedding, so the beautiful ceremony was held in Tagaytay on a foggy and windy afternoon. The church was filled before the 3 p.m. Mass.

The gorgeous bride walked down the aisle to the music of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and "Nella Fantasia" as sung by Nolyn Cabahug. She looked as regal as a princess in her long-sleeved silk mikado gown with French silk Chantilly lace. The gown was complemented by an intricate silk lace veil that trailed delicately behind her.

Her elegant gown was made by Hannibal Laguna, well-known Madrid-based designer for the Spanish princess and stars like Penelope Cruz.

The groom looked dashing, *palanggas*, in his Armani suit as he stood waiting for his beloved at the altar with his best men. *Aprés* the ceremonies, it was great to see Audrey's gorgeous bridesmaids in yummy chocolate-and-turquoise ensembles by Rajo Laurel taking care of her, constantly fixing her veil.

The grand ballroom of the one-of-a-kind Taal Vista hotel had tons of eye-catching flowers and orchids by one of the very best, artistic Robert Blancaflor. The dependable bridesmaids ensured the smooth flow of events.

Loads of hotshot invitees from Europe and the United States joined some 1,000 personalities from the country's *alta* society.

Fully booked

They enjoyed the superb dinner, midnight snacks and fab breakfast buffets by the one and only Via Mare, plus the nonstop booze from the bar. Fortunately, most of the invitees did not have to drive home. The hotel was fully booked for this wow wedding.

The "Spice Boys," Miguel's closest pals in Congress, treated us to an original song number, while the couple's gang presented a video production that had everyone rolling on the aisles with laughter. Our beloved President Macapagal-Arroyo, who led the lineup of principal sponsors, really had a great time, sharing a good laugh with Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.; and Speaker Joe de Venecia and wife, adorable woman of substance Gina de Venecia, over dinner and during the program.

Television's Southern gent, JM Rodriguez, and attractive Berna Romulo Puyat were the perfect hosts, entertaining with delightful stories and tidbits about Miguel and Audrey. And the speeches were an event in themselves.

The sentimental speech of the bride's lovely young mom, Dette Aquino-Tan, surely touched the hearts of all the parents in the room. Bukidnon's well-loved Gov. Joe Zubiri playfully said "you have to be just like me, a loyal husband to his wife." His glamorous wife Vicky (who looked stunning in her gorgeous couture Lacroix gown) rushed forward to give her side on her husband's claims: "Joe Zubiri, you're so lucky I'm still here," which really cracked the house up.

True love

As a finale, the bride and groom spoke, proclaiming their love for one another. Yes, *palanggas*, no one could argue that these two were truly, madly, deeply in love.

When the music began, there was no stopping the party people, both young and young at heart, who danced, jived and rocked and rolled to the rhythmic sounds of Sabor Latino and the swinging Spirit of '67. Gov. Joe Z. sang with the lead singers of the bands.

The two bands were followed by Rivermaya, Velcro and Nino Alejandro, keeping the swinging crowd on their feet well until sunrise. After breakfast was served, everyone staggered to their hotel rooms and condos.

A few weeks after the wedding, the beautiful couple jetted to South Africa for an exciting safari honeymoon and to chill out after months of wedding preparations.

Hey, Miguel and Audrey, here's to the best of health, wealth and everlasting true love, and memories as wonderful as your gorgeous wedding day!

Cheers, *palanggas*!

Everything seemed to fit just right, like tea and crumpet

MIA BORROMEO, Frannie Jacinto, Jojo Zabarte, Allana Montelibano, Edna Lhuillier and Marilou Senn. Seated: Eva Abesamis and Citoy Lopez

MIGUEL and Audrey Zubiri (née Tan)

MIRTHA Velasquez and Dr. Vermen Rowell

JON ABOITIZ and Manolo Lopez

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia

THE BRIDE with Nicole Hernandez, Marga Padilla and Theresa Leung

MICA Mitra, Julia Quisumbing and Pocholo Garcia-Morera

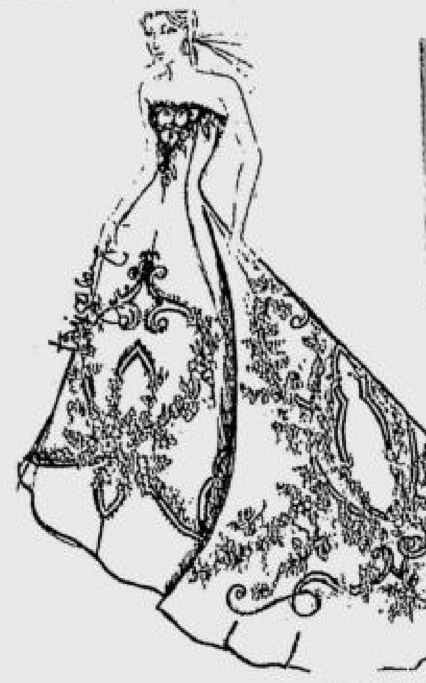
JUDAH Liu, Nenita Morente and Teresita Hocson with Maritess Pineda (standing)

NIKKI Teodoro, Julie and Mike Defensor, Gilbert Teodoro and Mike Toledo. Seated: Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Rep. Ed Veloso

AMBASSADOR Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Dette Aquino Tan, Rep. Raffy Nantes, Rep. Roquito Ablan and Rep. Bodjie Dy

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



GULLE-SANTOS

Dr. **Kathleen Santos**, daughter of **Sonny** and **Melissa Santos**, will exchange vows with Dr. **Apollo Gulle**, son of **Arbella Avena vda. de Gulle**, at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati, on May 12. Reception will follow at Mandarin Oriental Manila. **Toni Galang** designed the bridal gown.

CULLADO-MARISCOTES

Anerissa May B. Mariscotes, daughter of **Armando** and **Cristina Mariscotes**, recently tied the knot with **Jerico A. Cullado**, son of **Adoracion** and **Enrique Cullado**, at Santissimo Rosario Parish (University of Santo Tomas), España, Manila. Reception was held at Patio Ibarra on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Wedding coordinator was **Kristin Mariscotes**.

BRIDGEMAN-CHUA

Ciaran Bridgeman and **Catalina Chua** were married recently at Mary the Queen Parish Greenhills. Reception followed at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The bride's gown was by **Edwin Uy** and her makeup by **Tonett Chua**.

COMIA-GERNADE

Anna Marie Gernade and **Jayberni Comia** will wed today at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, QC. The bridal gown was designed by **Malou Castillejos** of Perfect Gown. Reception will be held at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati.

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Shrine is inspired by a dream

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF MERCY, and people from all over Negros Occidental will gather at the diocesan shrine of the Divine Mercy in Barangay Calumanggan, Bago City, built by businessman Mariano Lim. Fr. José Rey Erexima, parish priest, will celebrate Mass at 3 p.m.

My friends Meng Canlas of "Miracles of Mary" show on RPN 9, cameraman Christopher Golez, Arlene Andres and Marivic Marcelino and I were brought there April 7 by Dr. Christine Sarabia-Heras and husband Quinito Heras. Also with us was Edsol Celestial, who painted the 8' x 12' icon of Jesus the Divine Mercy in the main altar.

The shrine was built after Mariano Lim dreamed of the Divine Mercy telling him "you have built beautiful homes for your children, but you haven't built a house for me."

Mariano was then sick of cancer of the colon that had spread to the liver. He immediately bought land in Calumanggan and asked architect Silverio Ureta to design the shrine. A nun introduced Edsol to Mariano. Edsol, a Fine Arts graduate of La Consolacion College-Bacolod, had painted several Divine Mercy icons.

Edsol credits God's grace for his having been able to paint Jesus' face, especially the eyes, exactly as He dictated to St. Faustina. Edsol, whose life is guided by his devotion to the Divine Mercy, told me how effective it was to pray to the Divine Mercy.

Devotees

Friends Imee and Sonny Luzuriaga, Nelly and Tony Sarabia, Henry and Pepet Escay, Letty Esteban, Nena Rodriguez, Pitching Henares, Louce and Alex Ozoa, Tess and Angel Tonsay, Polly and Louie Gatuslao and Edsol meet every Wednesday to discuss how to propagate devotion to the Divine Mercy. Fr. Gerry Matriano is their spiritual adviser.

At 3 p.m. today, the Feast of Mercy, the group will join the praise and worship of the Divine Mercy.

Edsol said, in the '70s, architect Ureta thought he would die from his illness. But he dreamed of Jesus telling him he still had a mission. It turned out that Ureta was meant to build the shrine.

Impressive and awesome, the church is on the highway to Valladolid, site of the 145-year-old church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, drawing not just people from Negros Occidental, but other places as well. News of answered prayers and healing has spread. To order Edsol's paintings, text 0927-9297424.

Basilica is 25

The Manila Cathedral will mark on April 27 its 25th anniversary as the Basilica Minore de Inmaculada Concepcion, with a triduum of Masses 12:15 p.m., April 24-26. Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate at the concelebrated Mass at 12:15 p.m. on April 27.

The celebration includes the blessing of the newly renovated sacristy and blessing of the liturgical vestments. Italian pianist Rolando Nicolosi will give a concert April 28 after the 6 p.m. Mass, courtesy of the Italian embassy, in honor of the new Filipino cardinal and in remembrance of the late Pope John Paul II.

Convention

The Apostleship of Prayer (AP) National Chapter will hold a convention April 28-29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The AP is trying to involve the youth in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Renewal

A five-in-one series of activities will be held in Rome beginning June 3 in preparation for the 40th anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, according to Bro. Ernie Burdeus, president of Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas.

These are Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father, June 3, St. Peter's Square; Pentecost Celebration-"My Soul Magnifies the Lord," June 4.

The International Open Conference on "CCR: Yesterday Today and Tomorrow" will be held June 5-9.

It will be followed by a colloquium of some 300 international leaders who will discuss "Maturing in the Spirit."

Before going to Rome, the Philippine delegation will visit Lourdes, Fatima, Assisi, Loyola, Madrid, Montserrat, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, the French Riviera, Pisa, Salamanca.

Even those not attending the conference may join the Marian Pilgrimage May 21-June 3. Contact Adam's Express Travel at tel. 5211638/1651 or text 0918-9083676.

Bangkero Festival

The 8th Bangkero Festival of the centuries-old town of Pagsanjan ends today with street dancing, river regatta and fluvial parade. It is held in thanksgiving for the protection given by Our Lady of Guadalupe, town patroness, during the Spanish period and Japanese Occupation. The festival will feature the famous Bayanihan Dance Company.

Mayor E.R Ejercito III is leading the festivities that started April 19. Text 0921-4114131.

'Caysasay' in Davao

Seven priests and 14 lay people will fetch on April 25 the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Caysasay in Taal, Batangas, for the Virgin's visit to 30 churches in Davao City. A yearly Marian event, the Virgin Mary is invited in her various titles. Last year, it was Our Lady of Piat.

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CHRIS RAMOS

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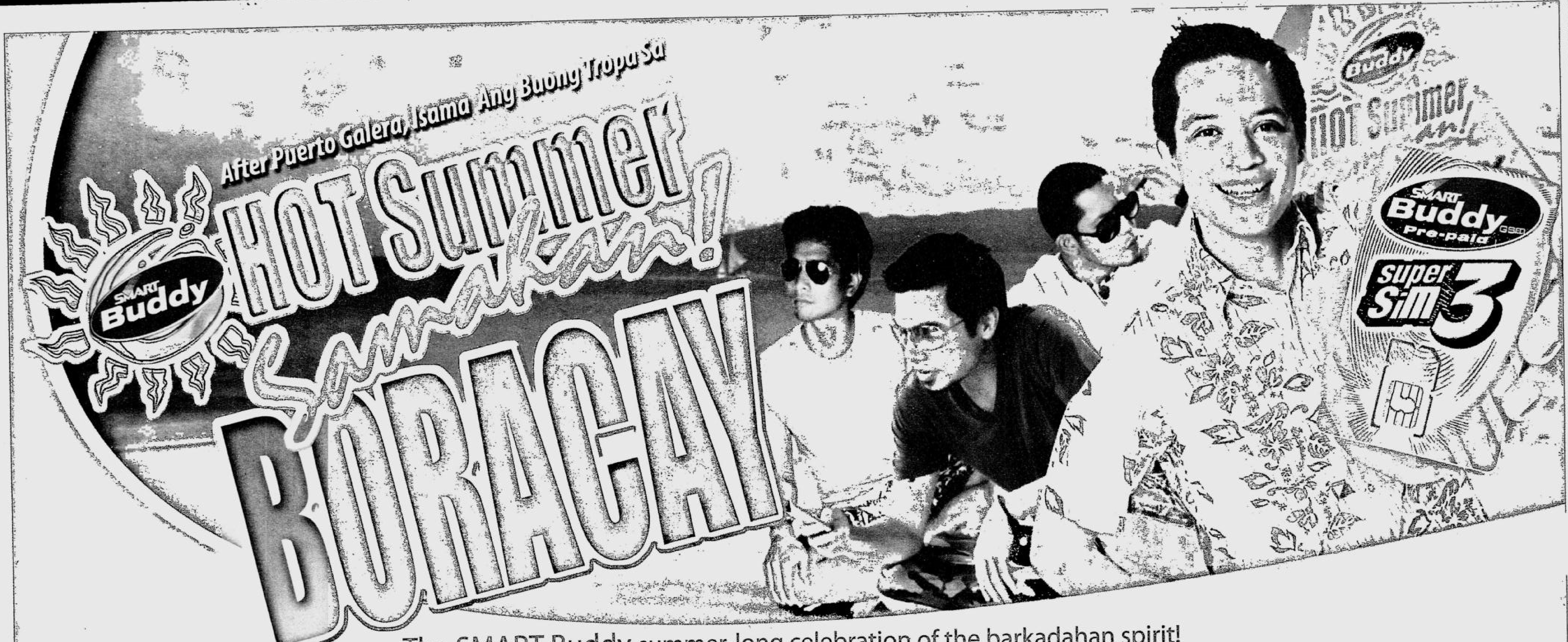

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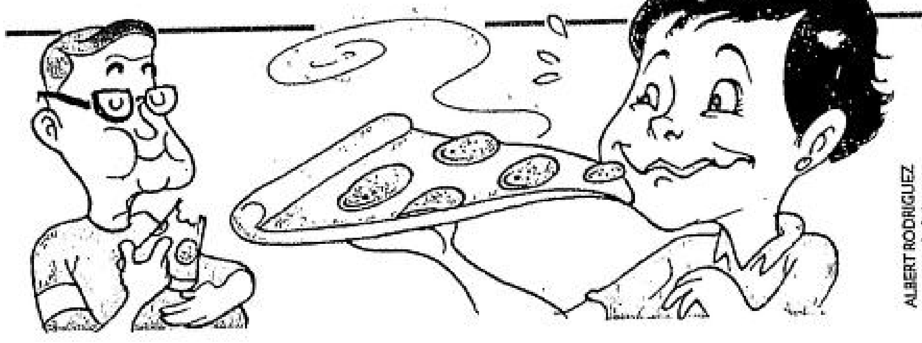

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Pepperoni is a sacrifice for me because I am largely vegetarian and meat quite turns me off

Understanding sacrifice

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

IT'S HOLY WEEK! THE CHILDREN ARE abroad with their children, at the beach or a picnic somewhere. If it's Good Friday, they will stop at 3 p.m. and, for an hour, think of the Nailing on the Cross. But today is only Holy Thursday and I have decided to gather together my Cordero relatives from Pagsanjan, one of whom I have not seen in 50 years.

It is difficult to get them together because everybody (except their children) is as old or older than I am. They will say, it's too far if I tell the Pagsanjenos that we will gather in my QC home, and if I tell them let's meet in Pagsanjan, the Manila Corderos will say that, too, is too far.

So we decide on a midway place—Sta. Rosa, 1½ hours from Manila and 1½ hours from Pagsanjan. No one can complain about being driverless, there's no office anywhere today.

The house in Sta. Rosa is my sister Tess' and is located in a crestfallen subdivision where few now live. The houses around are falling apart but Alex and Tess and their sons, Andy and Papo, by spending time there every so often, have kept their house as neat and pretty as the day Connie Castro remodeled it and planted the vine in front.

I have a funny time conversing by phone with my cousin Nor who suffered a stroke last year. When we end, I do not know whether she has said yes or no. Her brother Hone, who is 78, has one tooth left and is stone-deaf. Another cousin, Pining, limps due to her osteoarthritis, and my sister, of course, is blind. Not to forget that I am *uli-anin* myself. So the round table is full of these incapacitated but happy reunited cousins.

I am elated with everyone who comes in through the door with blood that is mine—supergirl Bing who manages her aunt Nor and uncle Hone and works in a call center at night. Brainy Nena, 75, who worked 20 years in the States, retired there, took up a free computer course there, topped it, and was able to find another job there. Now she is retired for good here.

Laly's son, Boy, is with his twinkly eyed wife, Alice, and their teenage daughter, and Pining with her son Koko, his wife and good-looking baby. Finally Remy (wife of the former mayor) and her grandson, sister Cheping and her pretty daughter, Jojo, arrive, too. These, plus a smattering of caregivers, do not faze me. I have brought

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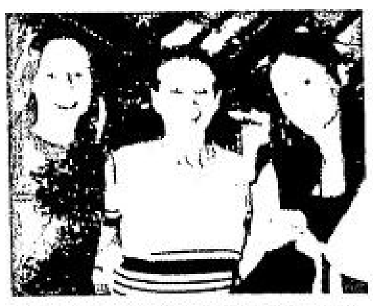


3-GENERATION ladies Princess Sy, Dr. Gloria Tamesis and Jan-jan Sy

ELEGANT host Marlyn Pardo and soon-to-wed daughter Barbie Pardo

PRAYERFUL couple Ruthy and Bobet Vera

New life, new golf rounds

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MY SUMMER HAS STARTED with sort of a new lease on life. As the Easter message of hope, joy and rebirth ushered in the end of the Lenten season, I awakened to the possibility that new beginnings can happen at any point in life's journey. The Easter miracle is that even when monumental challenges come your way, good always triumphs in the end.

I have spent the past two Easter holidays in Tagaytay Highlands, breathing in the last remaining cool breezes before sizzling temperatures settle in. Last year, I was on my final trimester and I could not travel. This year, it is only after Easter that my husband **Dennis** and I will be scuba diving in the beautiful Tubbataha reefs of Palawan.

I was expecting to have a boring Easter holiday since we didn't have any plans, but I was enlightened by the two-day recollection given by Bishop **Luis Antonio "Chito"** Tagle of the Diocese of Imus, Cavite. A much sought-after speaker and retreat director, this very intellectual bishop was once a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission.

I guess coming from the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University, where he continues to teach, Bishop Tagle was expected to give a technical, in-depth lecture on the central mystery of our faith—the kind of talk that would really challenge the mind and soul in these "Da Vinci Code" days.

But Bishop Tagle was entertaining and funny as well. The spiritual readings and messages of "shocking" Good Friday and "shattered" Black Saturday were conveyed to a packed Highlands chapel where every so often the audience would burst into laughter. Humor, indeed, is not only the best medicine but also the most effective way to keep the audience alert and interested in the reflections.

Developed by the Leviste Group of Companies, Summit Point is a celebration of golf's best and it's right here in our backyard

AMEX pretty bankers Nenita Gabaldon, Caren Siazon, Venice Chung and Candice Lim

I have to thank Bishop Tagle for bringing the necessary religious aspect into my Lenten season. The hope that Easter brings has been made more relevant with his contemplative insights on the sufferings and anguish of the days before the Resurrection. With his theological wisdom and pastoral sensitivity, everyone was enlightened and was more appreciative of Holy Mary, the mother of Jesus. Bishop Tagle's talks brought forth a more compassionate Jesus, one that we could relate to.

Better shape

With my soul seemingly cleansed, I was off to get my body in better shape with a round of golf with my single-handicap sister, **Sandy Romualdez**, and her equally excellent golfer/husband, **Philip**. In the past years, the number of golf courses in the Cavite-Batangas area has more than doubled. For a golfing family like us, it is wonderful to have all these challenging, world-class courses here in the country.

The newest golf course in Lipa City, Batangas, is the Summit Point Golf and Country Club (Manila office 8122294 to 95). The course's 220 hectares of rolling terrain were designed by Robert Trent Jones II, who got inspiration from the spirit and ambience of top golf courses like Augusta, Pebble Beach and St. Andrews, to name a few. Jones personally led the inauguration celebration with prominent personalities in the business, political, social and golf scenes.

Since flamenco dancing and Bikram yoga have taken center stage in my spare time, it is Dennis who usually represents me in the golf course. He reported watching Vice President **Noli de Castro** make a respectable inaugural first tee shot and enjoyed the exciting new course with his golfing buddies from high school.

The province of Batangas is fast becoming a sports and recreation destination, not only for local but also foreign tourists. A lot of Japanese and Korean tour groups fly in for golfing vacations since it is much cheaper here than in their countries. This new tourism attraction helps sustain courses and caddies, and is fantastic for the local economy.

Developed by the Leviste Group of Companies, Summit Point is a celebration of golf's best and it's right here in our backyard. Batangas Rep. **Marc Leviste** encourages young Filipinos to engage in golf and hopes that, someday, a Pinoy version of **Tiger Woods** would emerge from Lipa.

SEN. RALPH Recto playing at Summit Point

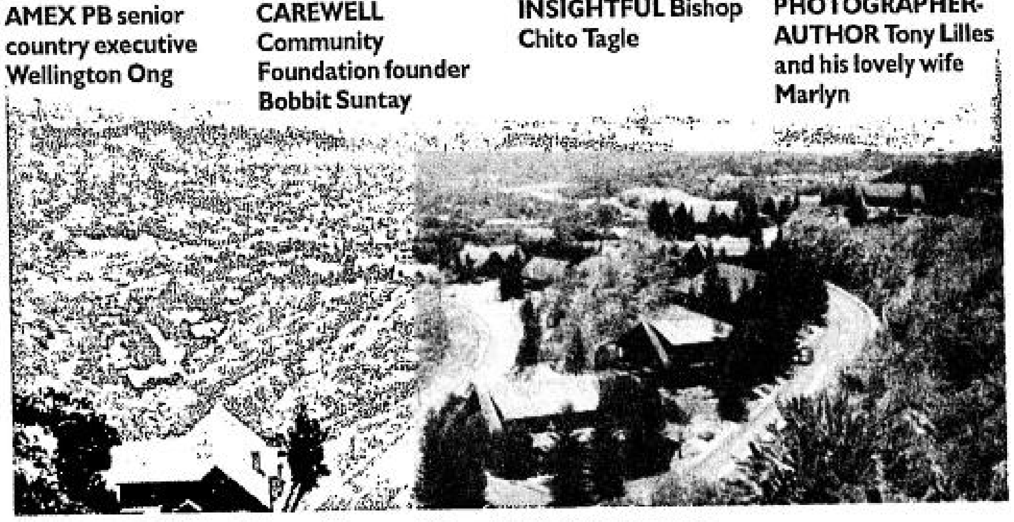
CLUBHOUSE BLESSING. Fr. Larry Tan, SP chair Conrad Leviste, Hon. Marc Leviste and Vice President Noli de Castro

AMEX PB senior country executive Wellington Ong

CAREWELL Community Foundation founder Bobbit Suntay

INSIGHTFUL Bishop Chito Tagle

PHOTOGRAPHER-AUTHOR Tony Lilles and his lovely wife Marlyn



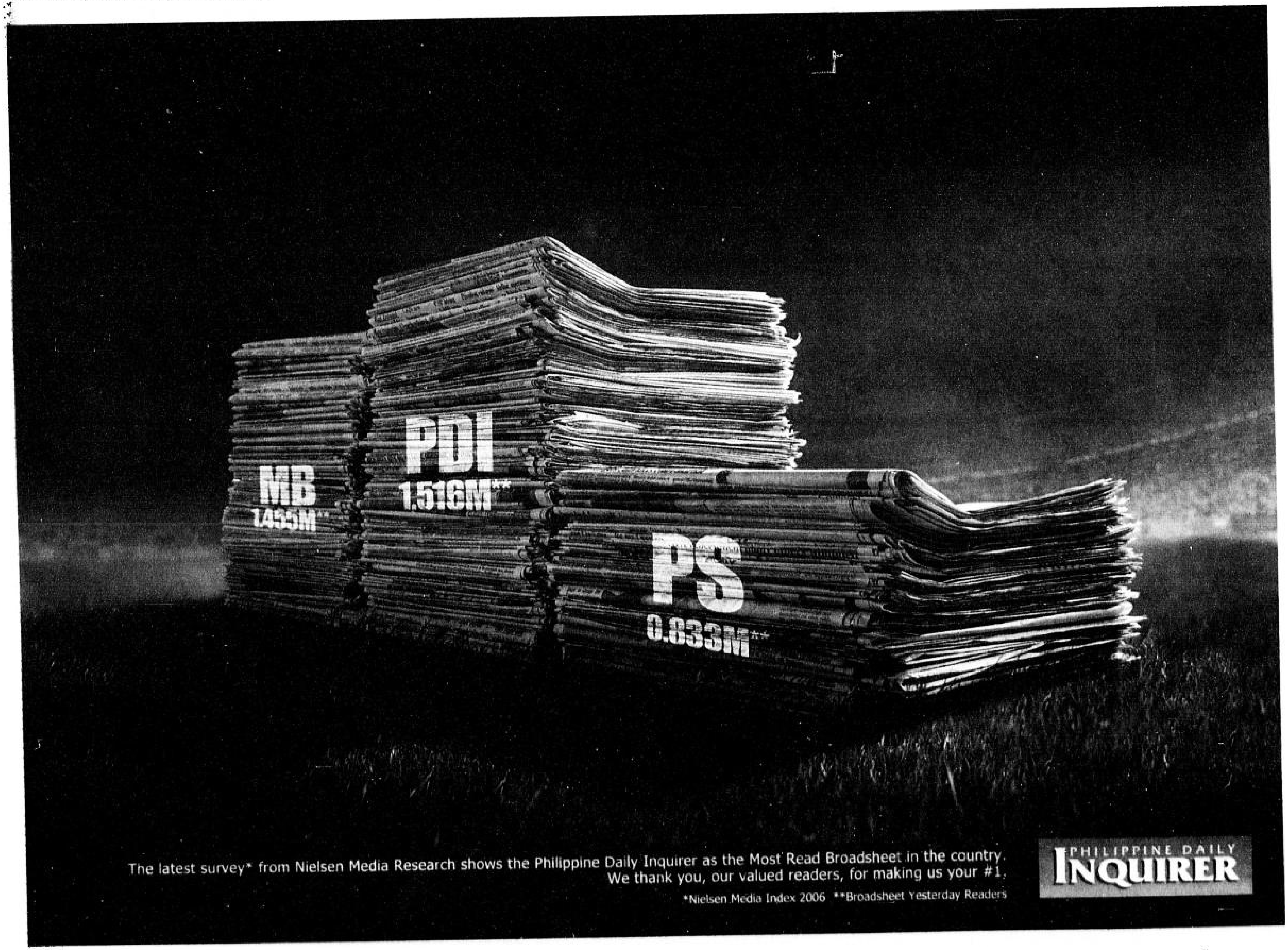
TAGAYTAY Highlands log cabins are still cool during the summer.

All in the family

Another golfing jewel in the Batangas area is the Ayala Greenfield Golf Course. American Express Private Bank recently held a golf tournament there for its favored clients. The picturesque course, with its manicured greens and lush fairways, was spectacular. The tournament felt like a private one for my family, since every other player seemed to be an uncle or a cousin. For sure, we had better odds in the raffle!

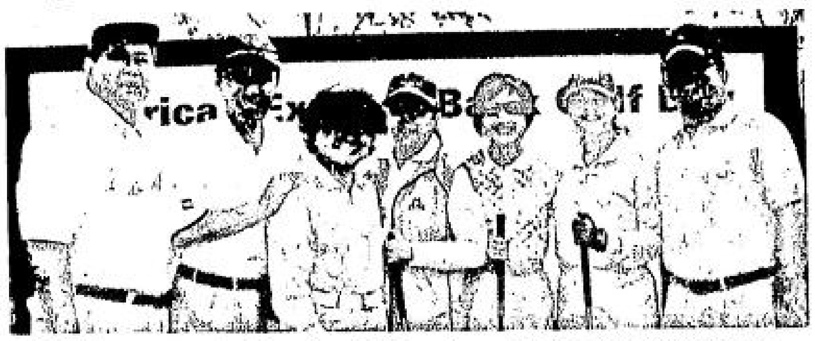
The beauty of the Philippines does not end with our beaches or golf courses, but is found in the life and landscapes of our diverse culture and heritage. "25 Years of Travel Photography," a coffee-table book with beautiful photographs taken by lens expert **Tony Lilles** (contact 0917-8450712 or **Glyn** 7220962), compiles not only the wonders of the Philip-

NEW/ D3



The latest survey* from Nielsen Media Research shows the Philippine Daily Inquirer as the Most Read Broadsheet in the country.
We thank you, our valued readers, for making us your #1.
*Nielsen Media Index 2006 **Broadsheet Yesterday Readers
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GOLFING buddies Aboy Jalandoni, senior board member Marc Leviste, Sen. Ralph Recto, Summit president Robbie Leviste, DOTC Sec. Larry Mendoza and Summit Point course designer Robert Trent Jones II



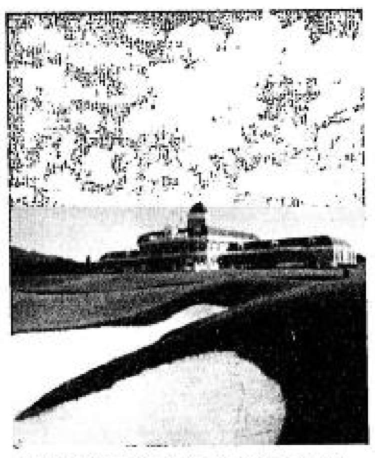
AMEX Tournament golfers Cary Rufino, Amex PB director David Wong, Rosalind Wee, PDI chair Marixi Prieto, Amex HK Wendy Tsang, PDI CEO Sandy Romualdez and Charlie Rufino

TAGAYTAY Highlands regulars Nancy and Jun Tambunting and Marge and Chuching Tambunting

New life, new golf rounds

FUTURE Tiger Woods golfers with Robert Trent Jones II

AVID golfer Cesar Purisima



SUMMIT Point Golf Clubhouse with Northern-European theme designed by G&W Arch

From page D2

pines on land but also our colorful underwater marine life. Tony's pictures, including some famous landmarks and national parks from around the globe, were compiled from his collections dating back to 1980.

At the intimate book launch, over 300 books and 30 framed photographs were sold, with all proceeds going to the development of The Carewell Community Foundation Inc. The Cancer Resource and Wellness (Carewell) Community is a nonprofit foundation set up by **Bobbit** and **Jackie Fernandez-Suntay** to provide support, information and resources to people with cancer and their loved ones. Visit them at www.carewellcommunity.org.

Along with Tony's wife, **Marlyn**, herself an ovarian cancer survivor of 10 years, Tony pledged all proceeds to Carewell, together with generous sponsors like INQUIRER, Lexmedia Digital, Sun Life Insurance, Columbia Global Photo Sales, Pixel Magic Digital Imaging Studio and Philippine Women's University.

When cancer strikes, the true battle lies in keeping spirits high and faith in God strong. I continuously pray for cancer-stricken family friends like amiable **EJ Litton**. With Easter's message of hope and triumph, new beginnings filled with hope, peace and love are surely ahead.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

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Summer fun for kids

WITH SUMMER FAST approaching, Shopwise, the country's leading destination for smart shoppers in search of great value, service and convenience, suggests these summer activities for kids.

Expect long, cool drinks and icy treats to become great hits as temperatures start to rise. For more healthy but still delicious choices, encourage kids to prepare fruit shakes and homemade frozen delights themselves. Head to Shopwise to purchase all the necessary ingredients.

Not only is it a terrific way to introduce kids to cooking, it also allows parents to monitor what goes into the recipes. Freezing seedless grapes, pitted cherries, or kiwi pieces in ice cubes make for fruity, decorative additions to fresh lemonade or iced tea.

Try out a banana-rama by cutting a peeled banana in half and inserting a dessert stick into the ends. Cover the bananas with peanut butter, sprinkle with crisp rice cereal, place on a plate and into the freezer for several hours.

Kids absolutely love ice cream and with the following recipe, they can have all they want in just five minutes!

The five-minute Ice Cream calls for a gallon-sized Ziploc bag, a quart-sized Ziploc bag, milk, sugar, vanilla, salt and ice. Here's how to do it: Put 1 cup milk, 1 tbsp sugar and ½ tsp vanilla in the quart-sized bag. Fill ¾ of the gallon-sized bag with ice and 1/3 cup of salt. Place the smaller bag inside the larger one, shake vigorously for five minutes and you get instant ice cream!

Playing video games remains a favorite past time among youngsters. New research has shown that it does have redeeming qualities, as children who play these were found to exhibit what experts call "fluid intelligence," an aptitude for better perception and faster analysis.

It is also advisable to engage in sports-related activities to keep children in tiptop shape. Whether it's a game of one-on-one or a full-court competition, basketball is ideal for developing hand-eye coordination and teamwork.

Still, nothing beats splashing around a pool with friends; swimming builds strength and offers the benefits of a full-body workout. Though relatively simple, jumping rope challenges both coordination and stamina.

Visit your nearest Shopwise Hypermarket for more great finds and other summer fun activities.

Shopwise is located at the G/F, Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; along the main thoroughfare of M.L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road in Antipolo City; G/F, Festival Supermall, Alabang; at the corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Streets in Makati; along E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis; and at the corner of General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Shopwise is open daily, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Review classes offered

ENROLLMENT FOR COLLEGE entrance examination reviews for the country's top universities and colleges is ongoing at Katipunan Review. Classes start in May.

The center also offers entrance exam reviews for high schools and grade schools, summer enrichment courses, and tutorial sessions. It will conduct summer-enrichment courses for high school and grade-school students thrice (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) or twice (Tuesday and Thursday) a week.

Tutorial sessions, in the morning and afternoon, will be offered from May to early June.

When the school year begins, tutorial sessions will be conducted on weekend mornings in June and July.

Katipunan Review helps prepare students for the schools of their choice. Teachers will help them master test-taking techniques and how to study for the toughest questions in entrance exams. Students will also get review materials.

Katipunan Review is at the 2/F of Mansi Bldg., 337 Katipunan Avenue, across Miriam College. Call 9277770 or 0917-8507277.

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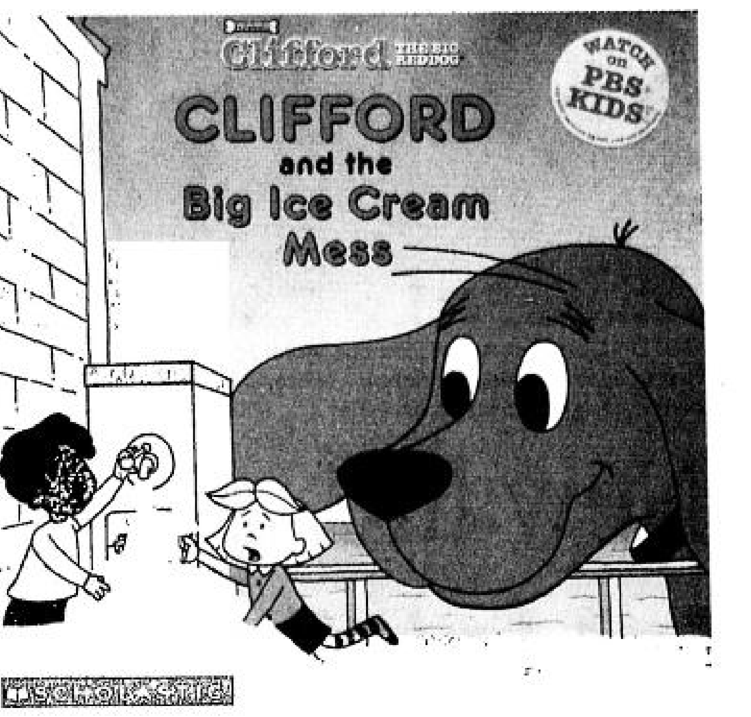
PUPPY LOVE
Clifford's puppy days
SCHOLASTIC

Where's the Big Bad Wolf?
by EILEEN CHRISTELOW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WATCH on PBS KIDS
SCHOLASTIC

Raising reading-friendly kids

By Amor Maclang
Contributor

CHILDREN'S section of Fully Booked

WHEN I GAVE BIRTH TO Peggy two-and-a-half years ago, I had a laundry list of things I wanted her to do, be and have.

While much of that list has fallen by the wayside, I am happy to say that my daughter has something I never enjoyed growing up. She absolutely loves books.

This little victory was particularly sweet because I grew up in an environment where reading was not encouraged. My Inang preferred solitary behavior (read: no interaction with kids), like role playing with my Barbie dolls or watching *telenovelas* (I swear) over "idle" reading time.

We grew up hearing our grandparents' warning that we would grow up to be a Pilosopong Tasyo because we read too much. Since it is pretty much impossible to be a well-rounded, culturally connected person without picking up the occasional book, I had a lot of catching up to do after college.

Even if I did not grow up with a "wocket in my pocket" (Seuss) I was absolutely determined that my flesh and blood would not suffer the same difficulties I had. The problem was trying to figure out how to get my energetic offspring to choose books over the amazing array of distractions tempting us in this blinking electronic age.

I got a lot of advice along the way, but wasn't sure what would work best so I followed all of it. If you are serious about fostering a love of reading in your child, here are some tips:

- **Choose to be around books.** Create your own library. A library, though, is not limited to one space. Surround your child with books—in the bathroom, in your bedroom, in the kitchen, living room and other places where she may hang out. While it does not go with the Filipiniana décor of my home, I copiously place books all over the apartment and even in the car.

Display books standing up and with the cover facing out so that she can enjoy the cover art. Do a little bit of carpentry. Create low-lying shelves that are within her easy reach so she can select her own books.

- **Look for books wherever you are.** For the inveterate traveler, buy books of places you have been to instead of getting dust catchers. Instead of replicas of the library of Celsius in Ephesus as a souvenir when she grows up, I bought Peggy a 3D storybook of Ephesus (yes, complete with the glasses) or a stuffed toy of Jemima Puddle duck (a character in one of her books) in the Changi airport.

Travel tidbit: There are always children's editions of travel books, such as color the right spice from India or Japanese illustrated folk tales from the Narita airport.

> Make reading fun. Nothing is more heart-tugging than your kid wanting you to read to her rather than watch TV

Even the grocery store is not spared. Believe it or not, the check-out counter of Rustan's is an excellent place to scour for brand-new books of Filipino folk tales. Lampara Books has "Maria Cacao, the Princess of Argao Cebu" and "The Alamat ng Palaka." The stories are bilingual and the artistic rendering is exquisite, using mosaic, paper toile and other artistic media. For P49.50, these books are outstanding buys. Reading these books to Peggy has actually improved both my Filipino and my English.

- **When choosing a caregiver, pick one who likes to teach and read simple books to your kid.** As I type this article on an airplane bound for Cebu, my dear Manang Marissa is reading the safety information card to Peggy. Encourage the *yaya* to read everything to your child—street signs, milk labels, the magazines in the doctor's waiting area.

- **Check out a school's reading selection.** When we went school-hunting for Peggy last year, one of the critical areas for decision was the reading selection of the school. How closely does it mirror the books at home? When I saw that a school had "Good Night Moon" and "Baby Beluga" and that Peggy liked the school (most important), I knew that I would enroll her there.

- **Make reading fun.** Read out loud with extra feeling. Nothing is more heart-tugging than your kid wanting you to read to her rather than watch TV. Sing aloud with your books ("Baby Beluga" by Raffi), or buy books with images that pop up (Fully Booked and Book Sale are a treasure trove of these).

There are 3D books, paper-toile books, touchy-feely books that introduce our little ones to different touches (fuzzy wool, scaly fish) and books with noises and different sounds. These create the impression that books are fun and interactive, a very critical stage for when we turn them on to books and eventually get them ready for when books don't have pictures anymore. Act excited around books as you would when talking about a vacation.

- **Include books in your toy budget allocation.** There is, in fact, a way to be book-smart without sacrificing your other expenses. Read to your kid for free! Instead of just malling, bring your kid to places like Museo Pambata which has a reading club where parents can volunteer to read on Saturdays. You'd need to sign up for a class in order to be certified as a "Museo Pambata Storyteller." Secretly, I yearn for Peggy to be proud of me when I tell stories to her and her friends. "Mommy *ko yan!*"

If you have the money, the classic, hard-to-find editions like "Madeline" and "Curious George" are worth buying. It's like getting a Cartier: you can pass it on to your children's children.

Now this secret I will part with ever so painfully. My modest, several hundred book collection for Peggy started growing because of Book Sale. I won't tell you which branch I go to because these book nooks are as addictive as sugar and I can't be held responsible for wives blowing their tuition or food budget over books!

- **Network with well-read friends and mothers on their book finds and selections.** They have recommendations to add to your reading lists. I started collecting Disney story books upon the suggestion of a friend, and "Madeline" and "Curious George" after they were recommended to me. I am now working on my Bernstein Bears collection.

I would not want you to start off with picture encyclopedias for kids, so here's a quick guide on what to buy. Eventually, you will get a feel for what books your kids like (mine would be anything with animals).

My top recommendations: the Eric Carle collection ("The Hungry Caterpillar," "The Very Grouchy Lady Bug"), Dr. Seuss collection, The Curious George collection, "Pop Story by Groovy Kids" by Nick Joaquin, books by Margaret Wise Brown ("My World," "Goodnight Moon"), "I Love You as Much," "Runaway Bunny" and, locally, Lampara and Adarna books.

If you are as deep into this book addiction as I am, why not get other moms and friends hooked? Now, whenever there are several copies of insanely priced books—P75 for a "create your own farm activity book" or P150 for Maisy 3D pop up doll-house books—get another copy for your sister or a friend. You don't know what worlds you may be introducing to them.

A book club for Pinoy kids

THIS SUMMER, KEEP YOUR CHILDREN entertained while learning through reading.

Reading is the most important academic skill. Time spent reading outside of school is a powerful predictor of future academic and workplace success.

A 2003 study showed that reading non-school books for at least 30 minutes a day significantly increased the child's vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and attitudes towards reading.

Studies show that good readers perform better in all subjects; hence kids who read, succeed.

Start the reading habit by giving children books they'll be sure to love and encouraging them to read all they can. Make your kid join the Scholastic SuperBooks Club.

Launched by Scholastic, the world's biggest children's book company and publisher of the phenomenal "Harry Potter" series and numerous award-winning titles, the SuperBooks Club offers high-quality children's books and family reference titles in affordable prices.

Scholastic has every type of book for kids of all ages: reference books such as "Questions & Answers," "I Wonder Why," "Jump Start," "Word Family Tales"; storybooks such as "Clifford, Bob the Builder," "The Magic School Bus," and "Shrek"; sound books, activity and novelty books such as "I Spy," "NBA Reader," and "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

Aside from discounts on all books and educational programs, Scholastic SuperBooks Club also gives parenting tips and organizes seminars on the reading advocacy. It also offers personalized services for children such as reading coaching, customized reading and computerized reading assessments at the Scholastic Learning Center, 3/F, Esteban Abada and Rosa Alvero Sts., Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

E-mail superbooksclub@scholastic.com.ph or call 0920-9288952 or 8174771 loc. 207.

Understanding sacrifice

From page D1

more than enough paella, baked *apahap*, fried *lumpia*, spaghetti puttanesca and green salad to feed the Marriage at Cana, plus Dad insisted that I take three coolers of ice and two electric fans.

Family lore

The born family storyteller is 82-year-old Cheping. She explains how exactly the Pagsanjan folks are related. She remembers Lolo Jose's long dining table with a small rock garden in the middle, whose little fountain is turned on when he has his breakfast of pan de sal and queso de bola. While he ate, a caregiver read the El Debate newspaper to him. The chairs had carved bearded faces on the ends of the arms. On the balcony hung two bird cages, one with a martin and the other with a catala (white parrot with a crest) which were fed papayas and were very noisy.

Lolo Jose had a pico de loro nose and spoke to the kids only in Spanish, to which they could only answer, *Si, Si*. Lolo Jose died when Cheping was four.

Cheping recalls the bakery in front of our house in Pagsanjan, above which a Tio Obil lived. He had an unbending torso and an ever-stiff neck, and the town called him Cuchillo.

Our Lola Pisa was the pillar of the Church. It was her vow to single-handedly manage the Flores de Mayo. During the whole of May we prepared daily offerings of flowers like *kalachuchi*, *santan*, *rosal* and cockscombs which we put in soda bottles, the easier to deposit them at the Virgin's altar. Every day we wore white dress, white veil, white shoes and socks and prayed Dios te Salve Maria. Pat, Pilaring and Connie Ejercito, sisters of Erap, attended the daily offerings, too.

On May 31, Lola Pisa decorated the whole church. The altar became a tableau of flowers, electric bulbs and saints. She ordered new vestments for the priests. She hired a brass band. She served breakfast and lunch to all the *sagalas* in the procession. Lola Pisa's Flores de Mayo was the yearly extravaganza of the town.

Sta. Rosa was a really memorable reunion and heaven knows it could be the last with everyone present. (I remember Sta. Rosa in the '60s as the hometown of Carmen T, where Bien L, Eric T, Josie P and I would head, riding one of Carmen's taxis—just for the cheap thrill of seeing the taximeter going into the hundreds. (Bien Lumbera is now National Artist, so I brag, no matter how out of place, about that).

God of Joy

Holy Week is always a very good time. People look forward to it, plan for it, save money for it. To the despair of the traditionalists of my generation and the fundamentalists of today for whom Holy Week should still be only be a period for mourning, for walking with the Lord on the way to Calvary, for visiting seven churches, for listening to the Seven Last Words and staying home, to a dinner, not of sardines, mind you, but of special bacalao stewed in olive oil or that frozen Alaskan salmon (didn't the church say fish?)

But I cannot see where Jesus could fault our Holy Thursday reunion. The God of Joy that I believe in is happy to see people happy. Even if it's swimming at some beach or going to Thailand or to Sta. Rosa. Although a time, as well, for silence, a long meditation, Holy Week or not, is always good.

On Holy Wednesday I ate a pepperoni pizza. That was my sacrifice. My sick husband wanted nothing but pizza to perk up his diminishing appetite and so we ordered it and I ate the other half. Pepperoni is a sacrifice for me because I am largely vegetarian and meat quite turns me off. That gave me a new understanding of sacrifice. It is doing something one does not quite like to make another person happy. It is not sacrifice for its own sake.

Sacrifice is not usually associated with safaris, but I have a rich friend named Nit who is really a homebody. She'd rather fix her closets and water her garden than go anywhere. But she married a corporate guy who loved to dance and travel to exotic places.

One day my friends and I were taken aback when Nit confided to us that she felt it a real ordeal to go on a safari to Africa. (How we all wished we were married to Amaury!) Nit really preferred to just stay home but she went anyway, and that, I felt was Nit's offering.

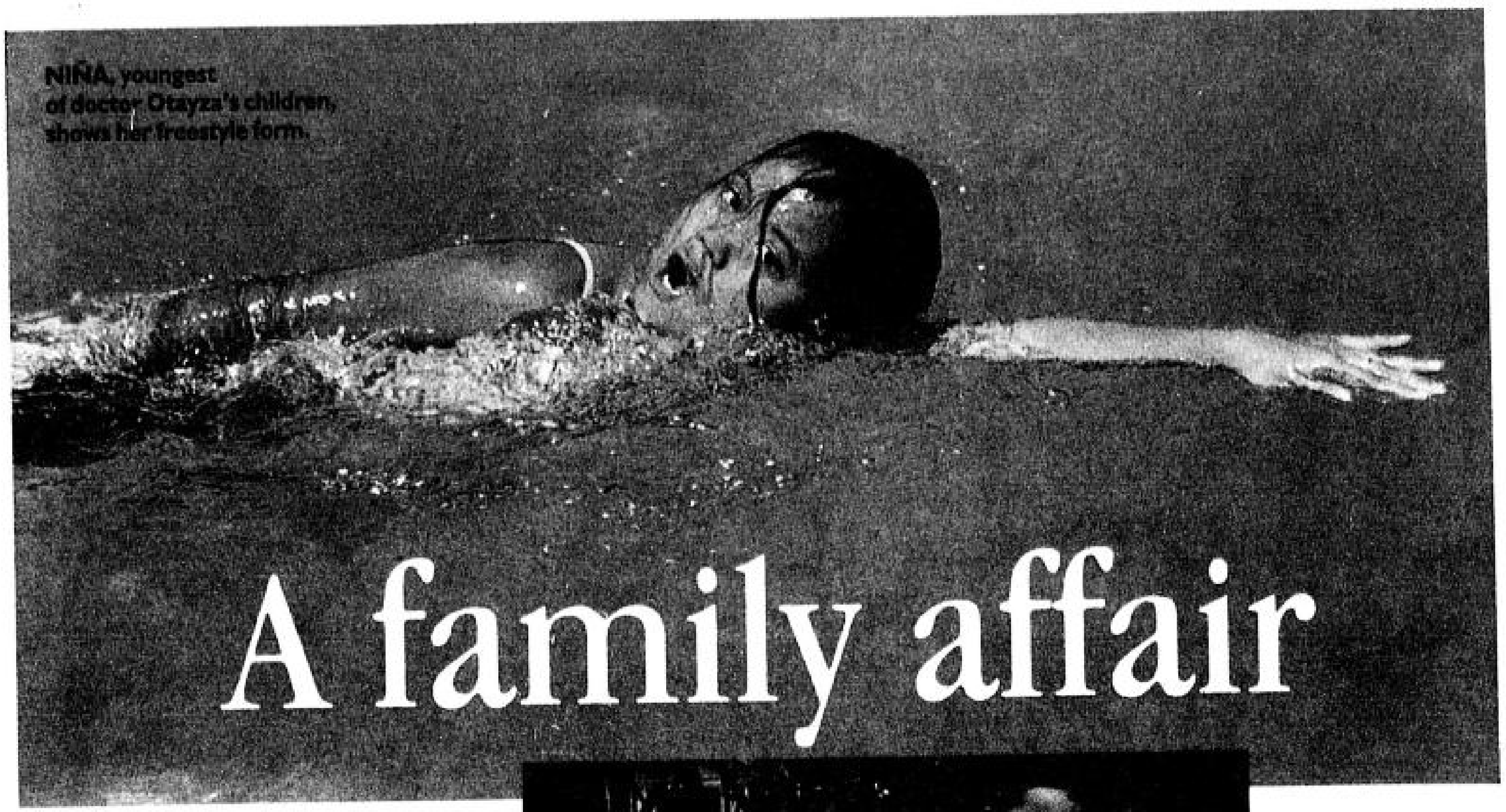
I remember also that in grade school, my classmate Tere told me that her sacrifice was to hold her wee-wee as long as she could before going to the lavatory. In those days such sacrifices were considered laudable, but now, of course, we'd rather it had some meaning.

I can concede that a lot of voluntary suffering people endure may have a deep personal meaning for them that we do not know. So this year, one of my sacrifices is to stop wondering why the Opus Dei wear that barbed wire on their thigh. To my surprise, my idol, Mother Teresa, wore it too, and I will never question again its usefulness.

But I will also remember that many prohibitions that I grew up with are not God's but are of the organized church. And that, as has lately been shown, is as human as anything can get.

My bestseller, "The Last Full Moon," is available at Fully Booked, PowerBooks Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang; National Book Store Shangri-La, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1 and Alabang, Metropolitan Museum, and Datelines in Cubao.

A family affair



NIÑA, youngest of doctor Otayza's children, shows her freestyle form.

The Philippines is surrounded by water and we should know survival swimming at least

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE FAMILY THAT SWIMS TOgether—has so much fun doing so.

Take it from Dr. Roberto "Tuts" Otayza, who got his whole family in the '70s to enroll in the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS).

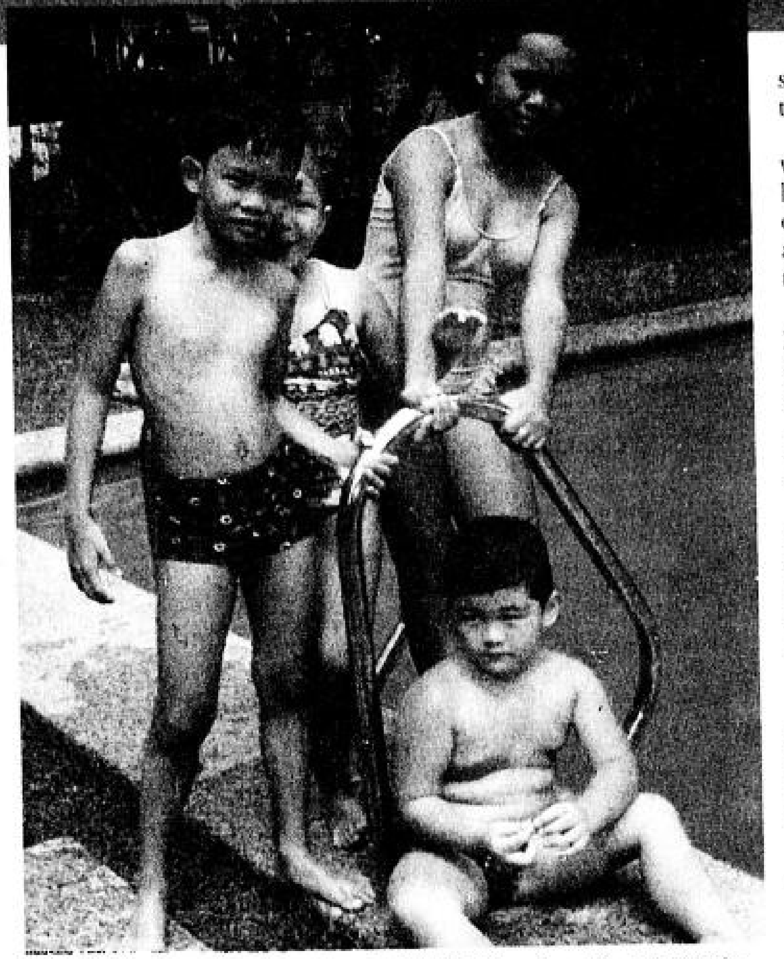
"Nobody [in the family] knew how to swim before we took swimming lessons," Otayza said. At that time, the family consisted of, aside from him, wife Lita, and children Marilou, Ma. Paz, Mariel, Marica and James, aged from 10 to 2.

"We wanted the family to enjoy each other's activities and enjoy going to resorts with swimming pools," Otayza explained. They also realized it was a good workout for the whole body.

For one month, the family reported to "class" from Monday to Friday for an hour of swimming lessons. But it was no hardship.

"The whole family enjoyed that month of learning. It was like a daily excursion for us [even if it was just] from our house to the pool. It was fun all the way," Otayza recalled.

Every member of the family was actually able to cross the length of the BLSS swimming pool, having mastered freestyle, in seven days. Buoyed by their success, they moved on to advance classes, learning other styles of swimming like breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly and dog crawl or paddle.



YOUNG learners—Kua siblings Gabriel, 7, Bea, 6, and Jacob, 4, take swimming lessons with aunt Niña, 12.

When two more children arrived, they also went to swim school. Joseph enrolled when he was 4. The youngest, Niña, 12, is now in a class with nephews Gabriel, 7, and Jacob, 4, and niece Bea, 6. All nicknamed Kua, they are the children of Marica.

Otayza is often the one "chaperoning" his youngest and his three grandchildren when they have their swimming lessons at the Village East Subdivision pool in Cainta, Rizal.

"My grandchildren [were able to] swim by themselves in five days of instruction," he said.

Otayza thinks swimming is one sport Filipinos should take up and he recommends the BLSS to everyone. "The Philippines is surrounded by water and we should know survival swimming at least. It was a worthwhile experience for the family."

BLSS and the Philippine Daily Inquirer have teamed up to give families of not more than five members a chance to learn how to swim this school break. Check the promo mechanics somewhere on this page.

Meanwhile, the deadline for the BLSS-Inquirer "Conquer Your Fear" promo has been moved to April 21.

For inquiries on both promos, call the Inquirer Marketing Department at 8978808 loc. 259 or 263 and look for Ching dela Cruz.

PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo

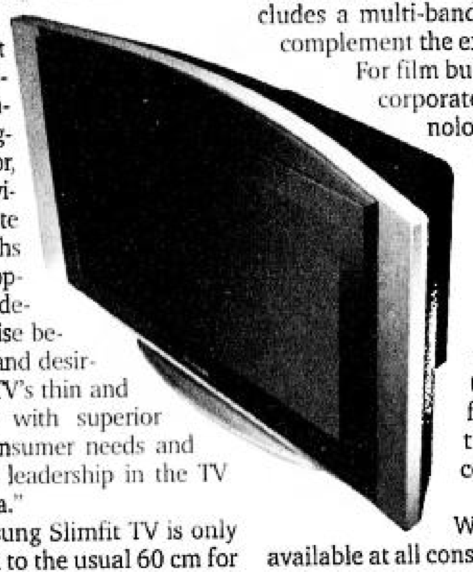
GET A CHANCE TO WIN FREE SWIMMING lessons from the Bert Lozada Swimming School plus swimwear and swimming gear from Speedo for the whole family (maximum of five members) this summer. Join the PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo.

The promo is open to all Inquirer readers in Metro Manila. To join, do the following:

1. Read the accompanying article and answer the following questions:
   - What is the nickname of Dr. Roberto Otayza?
   - How many children does he have?
   - What is the name of his youngest child?
   - What is the name of his grandchildren's mother?
   - Where do the children have their swimming lessons now?
2. Write down your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Include your name, date of birth, home address, landline number, mobile phone number, e-mail address (if any), and the names and dates of birth of members of your immediate family.
3. Cut out this promo mechanics box (sorry, photocopy not acceptable) and send with your answer sheet and family photo in one envelope.
4. Address the envelope to: PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo, c/o Lifestyle, Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Entries may be mailed or hand-delivered to PDI offices.
5. Entries may also be dropped off at any Speedo Concept Store branches.
6. **Deadline for submission of entries is Thursday, April 27.** A raffle will be held to choose one winner from all entries with the correct answers.
7. Winning families in both the April 16-20 and 23-27 promos will be announced on April 30 in Sunday Lifestyle.
8. Prizes for a maximum of five members of the winning family include free swimming lessons from BLSS and swimwear and swimming gear from Speedo. Prizes may be claimed at BLSS, 2401 Tejeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila (tels. 0917-700SWIM (7946), 5891982, 5635532, 5628041).
9. For inquiries regarding the promo, please call Inquirer Marketing Department at 8978808 loc. 259 or 263 and look for Ching dela Cruz.

Slim and sleek

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HAS launched its Slimfit High-Definition Cathode Ray Panel (CRP) TV. Samsung's space-saving technology reduces the depth of this TV by up to 33 percent, resulting in a new product: a TV that uses Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) technology, but has the same styling as an LCD or plasma.



"The Samsung Slimfit TV range will fuel a revolution in the Flat TV industry," says Kim Jeong-Wook, managing director, electronics business division, Samsung Asia Pte Ltd. We used our strengths in research and development and cutting-edge design to find a compromise between affordable price and desirable form. The Slimfit TV's thin and sleek design, coupled with superior technology, answers consumer needs and will cement Samsung's leadership in the TV market in Southeast Asia."

The ultra-trim Samsung Slimfit TV is only 40-cm deep, compared to the usual 60 cm for current 32-inch CTVs. In addition, the SlimFit TV's Flat Picture Tube enables improved brightness, contrast and more natural color associated with the CRT technology.

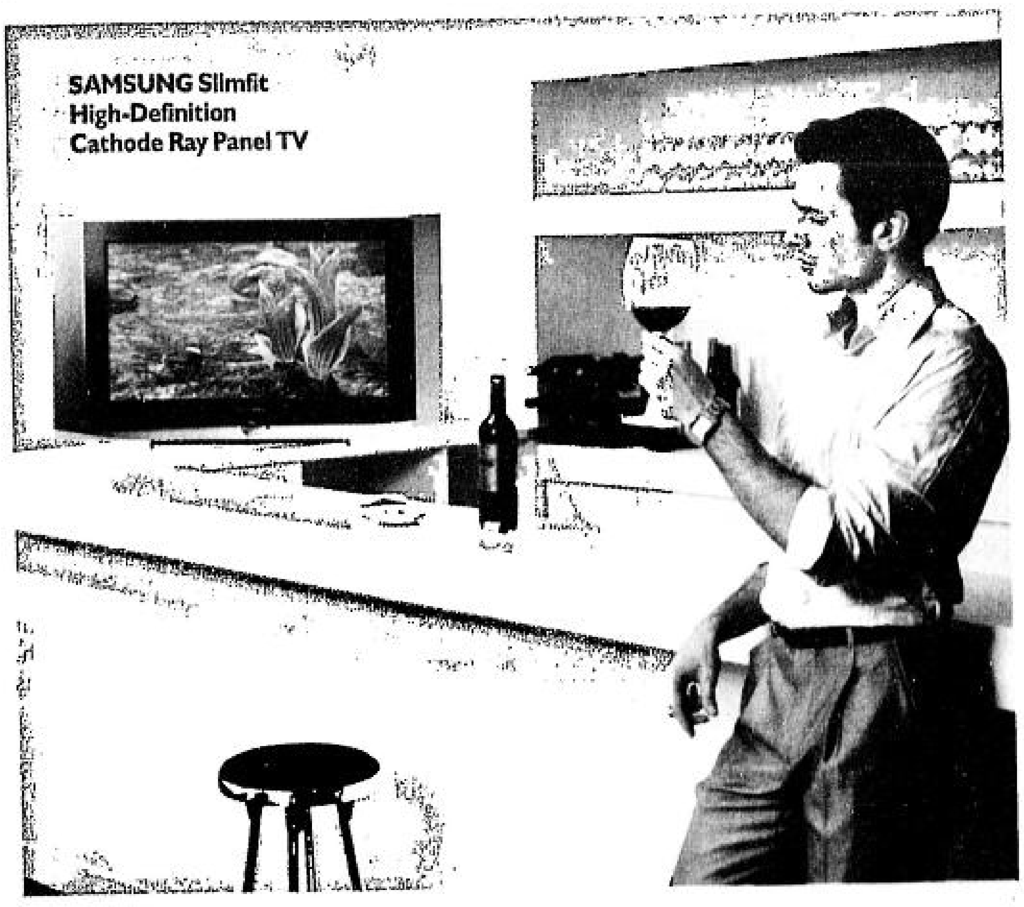
The Slimfit TV also features nano-pigment technology which enables an even distribution of brightness over the entire screen. This results in a more natural color tone, better contrast and brightness.

Being HDTV-ready means the Slimfit TV can support up to 1080i 50Hz source (the resolution required for HDTV), display them in 1080i and deliver a crystal-clear progressive scan picture from any analog source. It comes with a virtual Dolby Sound System that includes a multi-band adjustable equalizer to complement the experience.

For film buffs, the Slimfit TV also incorporates progressive scan technology for DVD compatibility and Samsung's 3:2 Pull Down process corrects the flaws inherent in film-to-video transfers. Samsung's patented Digital Natural Image Engine picture-enhancement technology serves to further improve the four key elements of contrast, motion, detail and color.

The 32-inch WS32Z30HE Slimfit TV is available at all consumer electronic stores at a recommended retail price of P59,995. A 29-inch model is also available at P39,995. while the 21-inch model will be available soon.

Visit www.samsung.com



SAMSUNG Slimfit High-Definition Cathode Ray Panel TV

Robinsons Supermarket
Trade Partners Recognition Night

GOLD Apple Award for Food Category: Ronnie Ong, Roena Sarte, Gregorio Honasan III, Dennis Ilagan, Juan Gabriel Sison, Angela Payoyo, Patricia Jimenez, Cecil Clemente, Nilo Calatrava and Bobby Mabanta

Supermarket chain honors partners

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET recently held its Annual Trade Partners Awards Night, "Best Picks 2005," at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The event gave recognition to the chain's trade partners, suppliers and concessionaires, who helped achieve its goal last year.

Giselle Sanchez co-hosted the event with TJ Manotoc. Guest performers included Jay-R, Sheree and Asia Agcaoilli.

Robinsons Supermarket general manager Jody Gadia formally opened the awarding ceremony. Senior vice president/group general manager Robina Gokongwei-Pe and key executives of the supermarket chain presented the awards.

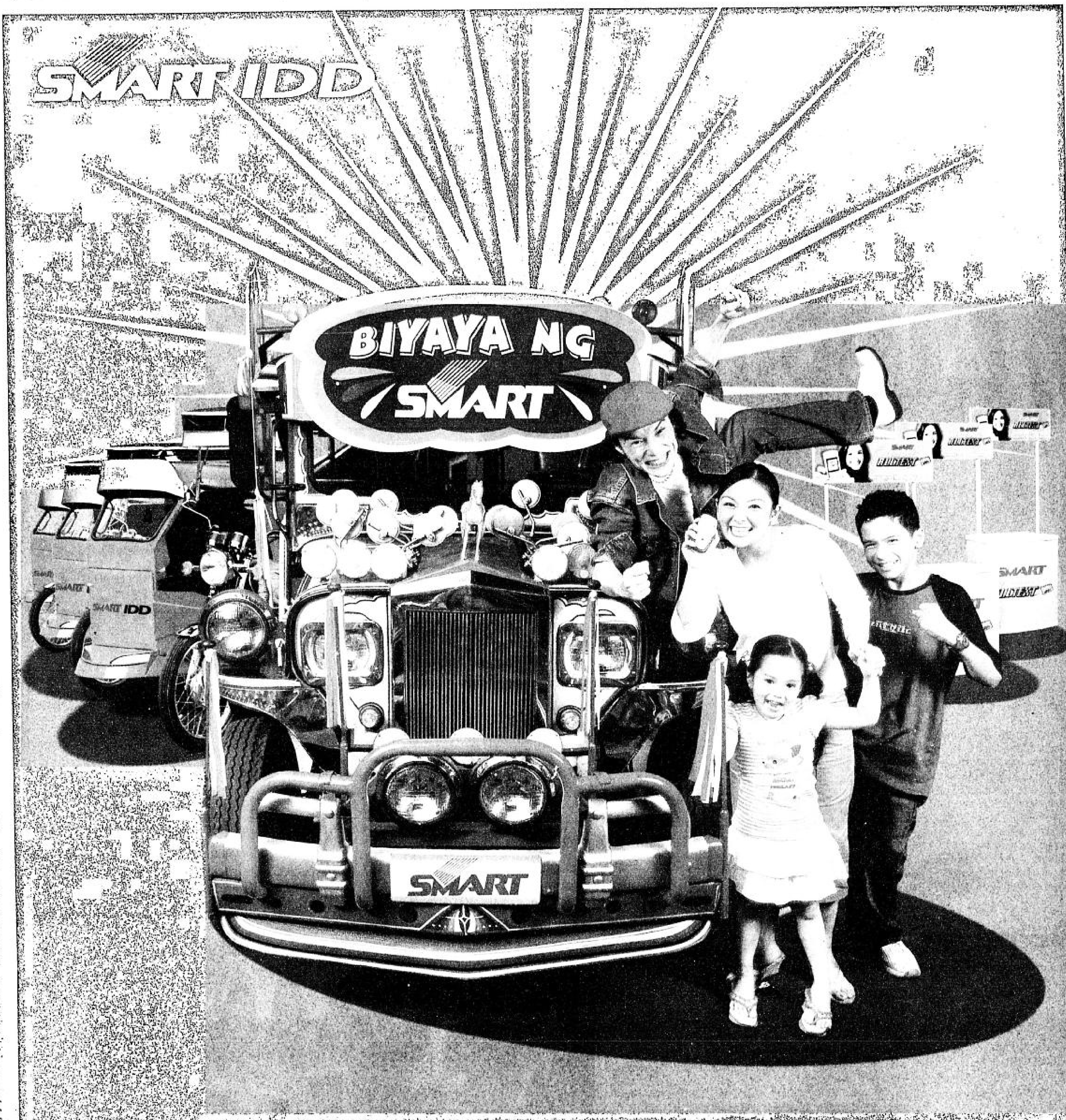
Nestlé Philippines, Inc., received the highest recognition, the Platinum Award. Del Monte Philippines, Kimberly Clark Philippines, Inc., and Global Fresh/Sunny Phil. were given the Gold Apple Award while Alaska Milk Corporation, Energizer Philippines, Inc., and Trinilove Fresh Produce Farms received the Silver Apple Award.

Four account managers were recognized for their outstanding performance last year: Ma. Teresa C. Estrella, Nestlé Philippines, Inc.; Angela M. Payoyo, Del Monte Philippines, Inc.; Nicole T. San Agustin, Unilever Philippines; and Romeo S. Rivera IV, Nestlé Philippines Ice Cream Division.

The program featured a raffle with prizes that included Sun Cellular phone kits, Nokia phones, complimentary Crowne Plaza Hotel accommodation, free trip to any local destination courtesy of Cebu Pacific, appliances, and cash prizes totaling P50,000.

PLATINUM Apple Award: Jody Gadia, Eugenio Simioni, Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Lily Ngo-Chua, Teresa Estrella, Rhiza Gomez, Joanne Cedo and Patrick Diño

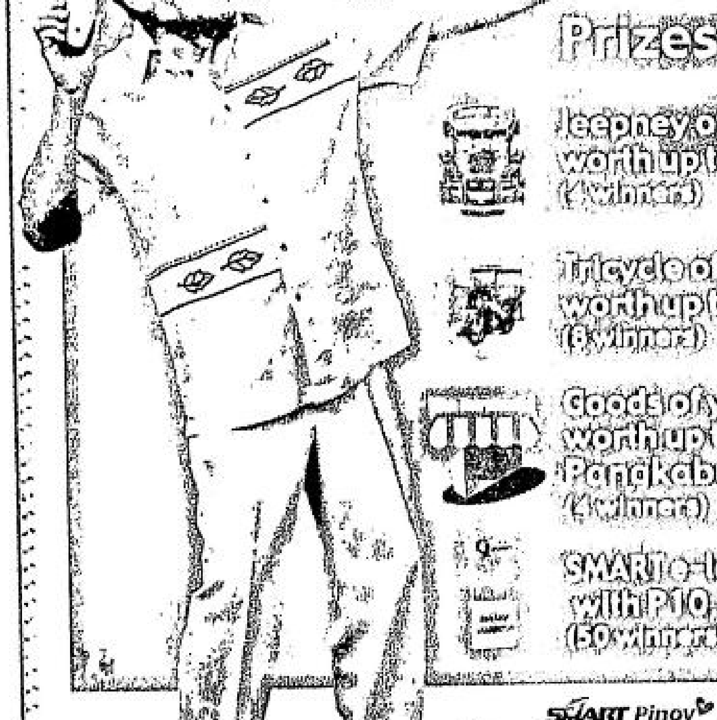
SILVER Apple Award for Food Category: Roena Sarte, Oswald See, Don Mina, Mike Santos, Marie Vitug, Bien Fernando, Anchit Idian and Ronnie Ong



SA BAWAT TAWAG MO ABROAD, NEGOSYO ANG HATID SA 'YO!

SA SMART IDD PANGKABUHAYAN PROMO!

Bawat tawag abroad ay raffle entry mo para sa tsansang manalo!



Prizes include:

- Jeepney of your choice worth up to P400,000 (4 winners)
- Tricycle of your choice worth up to P80,000 (8 winners)
- Goods of your choice worth up to P50,000 for Pangkabuhayan Business (4 winners)
- SMART e-load business via SMART SIM with P10,000 worth of load (50 winners)

To register, Just text:

IDD REG <complete name> / <complete address> / <age> / <gender> and send to 232

Registration is free. You will receive a reply message verifying your registration.

To check the raffle entries accumulated, Just text: IDD and send to 232 P2.50/text

SMART Prepaid subscribers (Buddy, TALK N TXT, AMP, SMART Kid) nationwide may join the promo from April 8 (12MN) to June 30 (11:59 PM) 2006.

Grand raffle draw will be held at WOLFPAC, PLDT Wyze Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City on July 5, 2006 at 2 PM to be witnessed by a DTI Representative under the supervision of SMART Communication, Inc. and Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Agency.

[illegible]

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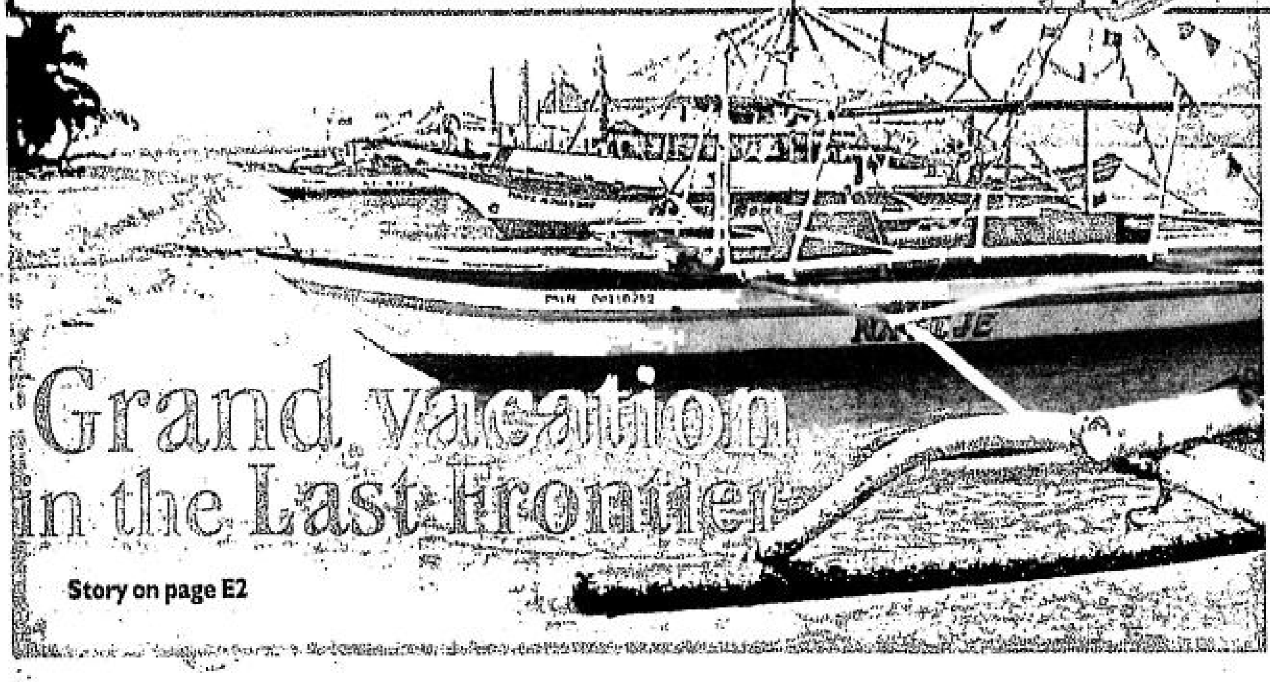
Promo period is from April 8 to December 31, 2006 See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2325 Series of 2006

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Grand vacation in the Last Frontier

Story on page E2

Hardworking Philam Plans sales agents let it all hang in Palawan

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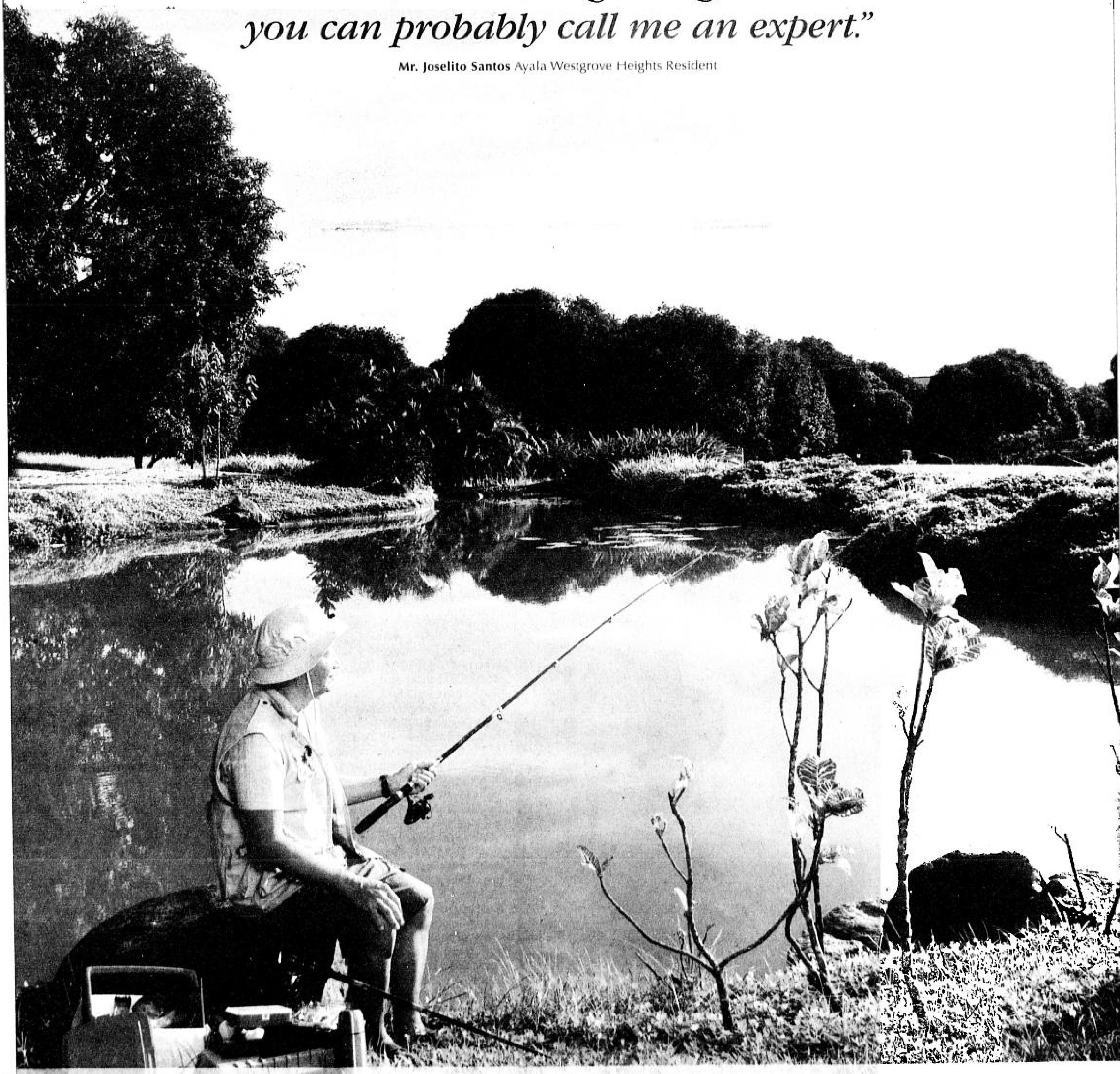
"When it comes to spotting The Next Big Thing, you can probably call me an expert."

Mr. Joselito Santos Ayala Westgrove Heights Resident



We were the first family to build a home at Ayala Alabang back in 1978. It took a lot of imagination and courage for us to see the potential in what you may call a very young village back then. But like many decisions I've made in my life, it's really just a matter of foresight and faith. Somehow I knew that Ayala Alabang was the Next Big Thing then. That was the best investment I've made in my life. Until now. My investment adventure continues at the latest Next Big Thing from Ayala Land Premier-Ayala Westgrove Heights. The best from Ayala Land just got better.

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AYALA
Westgrove Heights

Grand vacation in the Last Frontier

By Constantino C. Tejero

AT THE LANAI of a Puerto Princesa hotel, Philam Plans people party in full regalia.

PHOTOS BY MARC BRYAN PALACIOS

TAGBANUA YOUNGSTERS shivered, leaped and frolicked to the rhythmic beating of tom-toms in welcome of some 50 Philam Plans delegates setting foot on the tarmac of the country's Last Frontier. The natives' spontaneous dancing so charmed the visitors a few stopped to take photos before proceeding to get their luggage.

Called Bakasyon Grande, this visit was an annual trip incentive for the Philam Plans sales force, now on its 17th year. An agent is rewarded with a three-days, two-nights vacation trip with all expenses paid by the company, including hotel accommodation, food and transportation.

For the Palawan trip, Philam Plans president and CEO Jesus Hofileña had to fly back from his family vacation in Bangkok to join the sales associates. From the airport they were brought to Legend Hotel and welcomed by a band courtesy of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

After an early lunch buffet at the hotel ballroom (pork spareribs *sinigang, rebosadong isda, pininyahang manok, kare-kareng baka, sotanghon guisado, lumpiang sariwa,* fruits in season), the vacationers boarded several vans for the city tour.

They oohed and aahed at the crocodile farm, gaping at the skeleton and hide of the biggest croc caught in Philippine waters (now displayed in a museum), thrilling over hundreds of baby crocs in the breeding lab (smelling fishy, getting snappish at human presence).

At the wildlife sanctuary, the vacationers took pictures of anything that crossed their paths, from the Palawan pheasant to the bear cat, from the ostrich to the green turtle.

There were brief stopovers at the Phamati souvenir shop, the Mitra farm, the Binatuan weaving factory; and a running tour of the capitol, the city hall, Palawan State University.

A light snack of sandwiches and juice at Kamarikutan Galeri was made more interesting by the quaintness of the gallery-café's setup and the richness of local artworks on display. Here the visitors lingered a little while longer, before going back to their hotel.

Punk and Caribbean

The welcome night party at the hotel's lanai had Punk as theme, and almost everyone came dressed in black (the general association with punk). Even the CEO came in appropriate attire and jewelry he later admitted he borrowed from his teenage son. However, the buffet dinner was anything but punk.

It was a little incongruous to be dressed in leather and chain and made up à la Urban Decay while nibbling on Jamaican pickled fish, Caribbean coleslaw, Barbados crab and greens, roasted porkloin Calypso with caraway sauce, stuffed green pepper, *picadillo*, sautéed rice with black mushroom, rum cake, mango mousse—to the rhythm of the hotel's acoustic band. (More like funk.)

Mayor Hagedorn gave a brief message after dinner and presented the city hall's Pangkat Kalikasan. This cultural group gave a grand performance, with a series of choreographed pageants that could awaken one's patriotism and protective instinct over the environment. Particularly enchanting was the Muslim courtship dance.

VACATIONERS island-hop on Honda Bay and visit the crocodile farm.

> The scorching early afternoon was spent feeding the fishes with stale bread

Before leaving for another function, the mayor gifted the vacationers with rainmakers, a Palawan legacy the natives used to call on the gods to send rain to their parched land. (Those who had bought these bamboo instruments in the souvenir shop earlier now had an armful, and could be assured of flooding in their respective provinces.)

Fantasia and exotica

The following day was spent island-hopping on Honda Bay. On Pandan Island, 45 minutes by motorized *banca* from Sta. Lourdes Wharf, the vacationers had a grand time team-building in a whole-morning sports fest.

And a zany sports fest it was, with two teams divided between Metro Manila-based agents and those from the provinces. The raucous games involved tug, blindfold, eating exotic fare such as durian, bull's testicles, the mangrove worm called *tamilok*, and pizza crust topped with fisheyes, stinky cheese and oxblood for sauce.

Lunch was more edible, a deeply satisfying spread of grilled pork chops, chicken *adobo, halabos na hipon, inihaw na pusit, kilawing puso ng saging, lato* seaweed salad with chopped tomatoes and onion, watermelon, bananas.

The scorching early afternoon was spent on nearby Snake Island snorkeling, feeding the fishes with stale bread, or napping on the boats bobbing on anchor.

Back in the city, the vacationers proceeded to the Vietnamese Village. Here they were served as *merienda* the famous fare of beef noodle soup with fresh mint leaves and bean sprouts, shrimp spring rolls, and freshly baked baguette spread with garlic butter.

The evening party at the hotel's lanai had Fantasy as theme. They came in full regalia, seemingly straight from their favorite *fantaseryes*, as Mulawin, Inang Reyna, Darna.

This early, even before their grand vacation was over, the Philam Plans people were already chattering about future activities, thrilling over the attires they were planning to bring to Boracay next year. The sheer fun was intoxicating.

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this summer with SM Storyland's
JUNIOR BADMINTON CAMP!

Learn to Smash, Flick, and other badminton moves in
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Jr. Badminton Clinic!
Clinic dates:
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Open to all SM Storyland Clubbies, ages 5-12

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Jr. Badminton Tournament!
Tournament dates:
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May 21, 2006 SM Fairview
[10am-6pm]
Open to all kids, ages 5-12

Trophies, prizes and new friends await this summer at Camp Storyland!
Join now!

Hurry! FREE Registration Fee for the first 40 registrants!

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TEN FUN-TASTIC YEARS!

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SOUTHMALL • SAN LAZARO • MARILAO
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Husband claims he is separated

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am 39 years old, married, with an 8-year-old son. My sex life has been zero since four years ago when I developed endometrial cancer and had to have total hysterectomy (surgical removal of the uterus).

In August 2005, I found out that my husband had another family. He is an engineer and is in the construction business.

He has a 1-year-old daughter with this 27-year-old woman in the province that he visits every week. She's separated from her husband and has a daughter from that marriage.

We've always had conflict in our relationship before, but my husband assured us he would never leave us whatever happened because we were his family. But he told me I had to accept the reality that he had this other family and it was his responsibility to support them.

My problem is every time my husband goes there I am always depressed and under stress. I cry every night while he's away. Recently, I heard that the girl was pregnant again with their second baby.

This means the financial support and attention for us will be lessened.

Is it okay if I visit the girl to talk to her parents because everyone in her family believes my husband is separated? What should I do? Every time we have a confrontation, I dare him to leave us and just support my son and me, but he refuses.

What should I do? This is the second serious affair of my husband. He left us the first time but we reconciled when my older son died.

JG

Have you noticed you're between a rock and a hard place? You're only 39 and already you've gone through the death of a child, you've survived cancer and are carrying the burden of a philandering husband to boot!

All these stress and crying is not good for your health. This might awaken your dormant cancer cells; and then what will you do?

Let me get on my high horse and tell you what I think.

Unless you're bedridden or wheelchair-bound or totally incapacitated that you can't find work and must rely on this inconsiderate man for your daily sustenance, you have no reason to curl up like a ball and accept the battering you are getting.

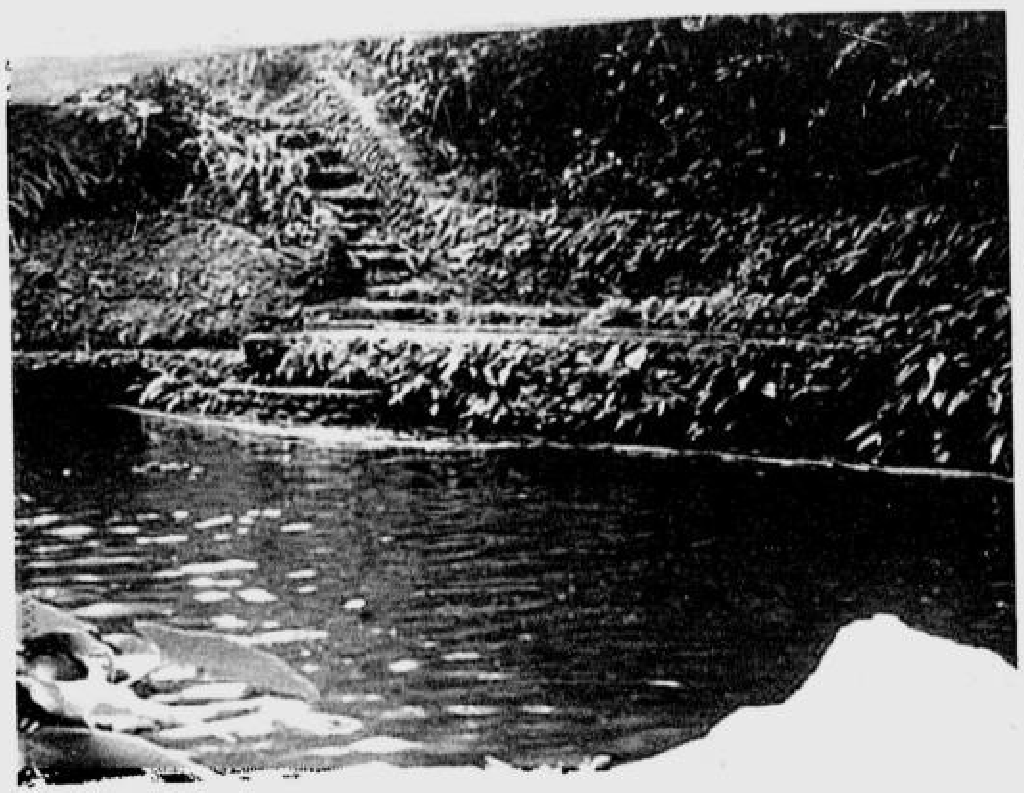
Have a little respect for yourself. Whatever happens, you still have to look at yourself in the mirror and you must like what you see despite everything, even if he treats you like dirt. Prove to him that you're not going to be a clinging vine who'll twine yourself around him and be a pesky good-for-nothing parasite all your life.

Tell him to his face that you're not going to take his shenanigans anymore and that you'll be doing some house-cleaning yourself.

If indeed this lump of mass who passes himself off as your husband has been announcing to the world that he is single and free, you can always seek legal ways to straighten him out without demeaning yourself by confronting his concubine. The law protects the family and there are pro bono lawyers who will do the work for you.

Life is too short for misery and you have this affliction that could make yours shorter. Don't make your husband any happier than he already is.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



FOR NATURE TRIPPERS
Bato Springs in San Pablo City on the slopes of San Cristobal and Banahaw, just a two-hour drive away Metro Manila, may be the place for nature trippers. The resort features a tree-lined stream fed by springs in Mt. San Cristobal. Going to Bato Springs, take the South Luzon Expressway up to the Batangas-Lucena exit, 41 km from the Shell-Magallanes station. Follow the national highway to San Pablo City. Then, take a left turn on the provincial road bound to Dolores, Quezon. This provincial road is just a few meters away from Meralco Office, on the left side of the Quezon Province-bound national highway. Call (049)5620976.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Osaka holds rose convention

The 14th World Rose Convention will be held at the Tsurumiryokuchi Expo Commemorative Park in Osaka May 11-14, Thai Airways recently announced. The convention will highlight Japan's horticultural legacy, as well as introduce the 15 or so wild and cultured roses indigenous to the country. It will feature lectures, exhibits, various cultural activities and a rose competition. Thai (TG620) flies daily to Osaká using a Boeing 777, departing Manila at 4:30 p.m., arriving Osaka at 9:20 p.m. The return flight (TG621) leaves Osaka at 10:45 a.m., arriving Manila at 1:35 p.m. Call your travel agent or Thai 8124744 (Makati), 5280122 to 25 (Manila), 032-2322405 (Cebu). Visit www.thaiairways.com

'Singaporean' roofs

Some 150 boats servicing White Beach of Puerto Galera feature roofs with the "Uniquely Singapore" sign. Along with "Enchanting Puerto Galera, Uniquely Singapore" T-shirts, the roofs were donated by the Singapore Tourism Board-Phils. as part of a cooperative venture with Puerto Galera's local government, headed by Mayor Aristeo Atienza and tourism officer Aileen Bareng.

Palawan's new convention center

The Legend Palawan announced the completion of its new convention center. The Legend Palawan Convention Center consists of three major halls for meetings, conferences and exhibits. It can accommodate 650 people in a banquet-style setting and some 1,100 people in a theater-type arrangement. Call Manila Central Sales and Reservations at 7022700 to 04 or fax 6389255 to 56. Visit www.legendhotels.com.ph

New aircraft for Manila-Abu Dhabi

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has added the new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft on the Manila-Abu Dhabi route. The new aircraft is being used on Etihad's four-times-a-week service between Manila and Abu Dhabi. Call 8858433 to 35.

The Legend Palawan: In the center of things

City life swirls around The Legend Palawan in Puerto Princesa, as vacation and conventioneer groups arrive in big numbers. The hotel lobby is a frequent hubbub, with departures and arrivals, handled graciously.

The hotel is simply the happening place for everyone: families, conventioneers and professionals, old and young alike, the laid-back or the adventurer, the shopping enthusiast or the culture and history buff. The Legend Palawan has access to an exciting cache of adventure-filled locations through The Legend Palawan Experience or PaX Tours.

Arrivals from Manila can still catch a hearty breakfast at the Tanglaw Restaurant before inquiries at the Front Desk yield directions to the locations you wish to visit. Which one will it be?

There's practically a PaX Tour to nearly every site you may have in mind. There can be spur of the moment decisions as PaX Tours can be flexible but do give the programmed tours a try. Nearly every need is anticipated.

The Honda Bay island hopping tour is a typical favorite, with a speedboat ride or sail aboard the catamaran MB Legend of the Sea for the islands of Pandan, Luli, Snake, Mears Marina, Starfish and Cowrie. Bat Island is within sight, where at day's end, thousands of bats wing their way out, flying in thick droves.

Honda Bay islands offer an experience even seniors can enjoy aboard the 60-foot catamaran which comes equipped with an audio-visual sound system, a bar and private restrooms. The young ones can hop on jetskis and take a few turns while or others can swim or snorkel. Fish feeding is also a fun activity with guests standing in waist deep clear water with pieces of bread in their hands for small fish to feed on.

For the intrepid, the islands can mean roughing it a bit and having picnic lunches. Overnight stays in tents are possible but only bare comforts are available.

Another tour is the firefly watching adventure. Groups are taken on speedboat rides into the mangrove areas. By nightfall, fireflies descend with their flickering lights decking the trees. People sit hushed and rapt, amazed at the number of fireflies which have all but disappeared in the big cities.

Water tours finished, even conventioneers can dash to the market for some quick shopping. The Puerto Princesa market is remarkably clean, and offers marine favorites which cost a pretty penny in Manila. *Barkadas* can check out indigenous craft shops, or opt for some food *pasalubongs*, as well as dry merchandise.

Families, conventioneers, teenagers and tweeners, or the very young and the very old, there's an activity for each of them in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Look up the options at The Legend Palawan. Surely there's something for everyone there.

Barkadahan Package

Inclusions:
- **3D/2N stay at The Legend Palawan in a Team Room with individual beds for 6 person**
- **Meals at Tanglaw Restaurant of The Legend Palawan**
  - Welcome lunch or dinner on date of arrival
  - Daily buffet breakfast
  - Complimentary coffee or tea service for duration of stay
- **One (1) whole day "sun, sea and sand" tour**
  - Cruise of Honda Bay
  - Choice of stop at either Snake Island or Pandan Island (swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, fish feeding)
  - Packed meals on tour
  - Experienced and licensed tour guides/lifeguards
- **Transfers**
  - To and from airport
  - To and from hotel for package tour
  - Drop-off and pick-up for evening meals outside hotel

P 3,000 NETT PER PERSON
(minimum of 5 persons per booking per room)

- Valid starting April 17 till December 15, 2006
- Additional charge of P1,000 per person for twin-room booking
- Extended-Stay Rate P1,200 per person per day (room & breakfast only)
- Buffet dinner available nightly at Tanglaw Restaurant at P350 per person
- Optional tours available: City Tours at P400 per person or St. Paul Underground River Tours (a UNESCO-declared Heritage Site) at P1,300 per person

PaX Tours is an in-house tour service of The Legend Palawan. For reservations, call 702-2700 to 04 • E-mail : sales@legendpalawan.com.ph
Websites : www.palawanexperience.com.ph / www.legendpalawan.com.ph • Owned and Managed by Legend Hotels International Corporation

Wet & wild...The Legend Palawan Experience

Legend of the Sea

At The Legend Palawan, it's what you make of the experience. Board the Legend of the Sea, a 60-foot catamaran exclusive to The Legend Palawan guests on one of our in-house tours of The Legend Palawan Experience (PaX).

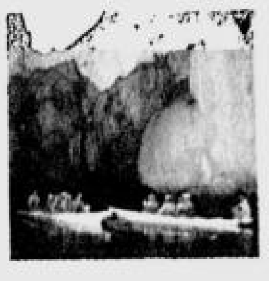
Party away on our catamaran equipped with an audio video system, dining facilities and a bar. Go for a magic ride cruising Honda Bay.

Choose between the Snake Island or Pandan Island to swim, splash, sunbathe, snorkel or feed the friendly fishes. Leave your cares to the wind. Our experienced tour hosts are just a snap away to serve and assist you.

Our PaX tours can also take you for a breathtaking exploration of the St. Paul Subterranean River National Park, the world's longest underground river that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Or visit Palawan's rare wildlife species of crocodiles, birds and fishes.

Do the Monkey Trail and see nature at its pristine best. Drop by our art galleries, craft stores and flea markets. Then at day's end, swap tales and share laughs over a sumptuous seafood dinner and a refreshing drink.

So come on... get wet... go wild...
Book a PaX tour with The Legend Palawan.



Malvar Street, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines 5300 • Telephone (048) 434-4270 • Fax (048) 434-4276 & 433-9078 • www.legendpalawan.com.ph
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Own a 3G phone for as low as P1,208 per month.

Now you can take advantage of low monthly payment schemes when buying your favorite Buddy cellphone using your credit card! Plus enjoy the latest 3G services such as Video Calling, Video Streaming and High Speed Internet Browsing!

So visit your nearest SMART Wireless Center and make that choice now!

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SMART 3G
Nokia 6680
Options
SMART 3G
Nokia N90
Options
Close
SMART 3G
Sony Ericsson K608i
Options
Close

SMART Buddy 3G

Sample Computation:

SMART Buddy Phonekit	Monthly Payment			
	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
Sony Ericsson K608i	4,339	2,250	1,555	1,208
Nokia 6680	6,720	3,484	2,408	1,871
Nokia N70	8,085	4,192	2,897	2,251
Nokia N90	11,411	5,917	4,089	3,178

Computation based on Equitable Card installment rates. Amount may vary depending on the installment rate of the credit card company.

- Also open to other SMART Buddy Phonekits.
- Minimum amount of purchase for deffered payments is P3,000.
- Deferred payment is subject to bank approval.

*For a limited time, SMART 3G users will be able to do Video Calling, High Speed Internet Browsing, and Video Streaming for free. Standard Rates apply when connected to SMART's 2G (GSM) network. Text 3G to 60034 or go to www.smart.com.ph for more information. For inquiries, please call the SMART hotline at *888 or visit any SMART Wireless Center nationwide.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

SBMA Bldg. 709 Cor. Burgos & Quezon Sts. Subic Bay Freeport Zone Phils. 2222
Telephone: (6347) 252-4613 / 4219 / 4474 • Fax: (6347) 252-4339

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE / SURPLUS / UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM	DESCRIPTION / LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING/ TIME
Lot 01	POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ACCESSORIES LOCATED AT B-8090, CUBI POWER PLANT, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE	MAY 10, 2006 – 2:00 P.M. PPMD CONFERENCE ROOM B-265, BARRYMAN ST. SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Property Mgt. Division, Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Bldg., 709, Burgos St., SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

SEC Registration (Partnership / Corporation); DTI Certificate of Registration (if not corporation); Valid Mayor's Permit; Latest Income Tax Return (ITR, 2005); Certification of Cash Deposit of a reputable bank

II. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on APRIL 28, 2006. No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference & Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on MAY 2, 2006.

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by group on the following schedules:

LOT	DATE	TIME
01	MAY 2, 2006	9:00 A.M.

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4613 / 4219.

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 11 day of APRIL 2006.

(Sgd.) RANI C. CRUZ
Manager, PPMD
Member, Disposal Committee

(PDI – April 16 & 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

TO ALL DELINQUENT MEMBERS OF SUBIC BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB Inc.

Names:

1. Dante Santos
2. Armand Raquel Santos
3. Paulo Tuason
4. Godwin Custodio
5. James Yap Lim
6. Felix Brawner Jr.
7. Marilou Genuino
8. Pastor Ramos
9. Jesus Ocampo
10. Arthur Rellera
11. Jennifer Tantan
12. Benito Yu
13. Rodolfo Garcia
14. William Leung
15. Marivon Lau
16. Hyung Shik Kim
17. Reynaldo Odulio Sr.
18. Alfredo Figueras
19. Lorna Tiu
20. Marcelino Veneracion Jr.
21. Eduardo Trinidad
22. Florentino Santos
23. Susana Sungal
24. Fidel Tan
25. Francisco Tan
26. Roberto Tenchavez
27. Kyung Ok Kim
28. Joselito Yujuico
29. Benigno Zialcita
30. Henry Go
31. Ramon Abad
32. Manuel Lopez
33. Alejandra Clemente
34. Jose Clemente Jr.
35. Erickson Co
36. Leonora De Jesus
37. Federico Galang
38. Roberto Galang
39. Edilio Montemayor
40. Miguel Quesada
41. Alfonso Ng
42. Felix Ty
43. Wilfredo Yee
44. Bonifacio Yu
45. Peter Lei
46. John Twan
47. Mario Young
48. Michael De Jesus
49. Gian Ramchand
50. Jose Ibazeta

Please be advised that SBGCC is offering the above-mentioned members an opportunity to finally settle their corresponding unpaid monthly on or above May 15, 2006. Otherwise SBGCC would be constrained to finally auction membership share with delinquent accounts. Payment may be made on an INSTALLMENT BASIS. For more details, please contact us at 535-7735.

(PDI–April 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

TO ALL DELINQUENT MEMBERS OF SUBIC BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB Inc.

Names:

1. Ramon Tengco
2. Vida De Jesus
3. Mohan Chattaram
4. Jeffrey Masigan
5. Bhagwan Sitaldas
6. Rakumar Tolani
7. Dauk Young Lee
8. Shuji Mataga
9. Ramon Nivera
10. Yi Sung Chen
11. Siu Wo Wong
12. Nanik Sadwani
13. Conrad Micaller Jr.
14. Ru Ling Gau
15. Alejandro Tengco
16. Juan Velasquez
17. Santiago Guerrero
18. Shu Ken Huang
19. Gordon Chieng
20. Jose Chua
21. Ming Thaur Chang
22. Hsin Jone Chien
23. Mariano Ridon
24. Teresita Oliver
25. Pablo Sim
26. Leonida Yu
27. Rolando Go
28. Arturo L. Bantug
29. Robertson Lim Saez
30. Carlos De Leon
31. Mercedez Tuason
32. Eduardo S. Lopez
33. Ruben Lugtu
34. Rodolfo G. Ibanez
35. Jerry Angpin
36. Bienvenido Sarmiento
37. Faustino O. Salud
38. Rosa O. Salud
39. Jose Enrique Qua
40. Mariano Chua
41. Eduardo Buendia
42. Alfonso Cruz Jr.
43. Januario Ramos
44. Manuel Sta. Cruz
45. Honorio Poblador
46. Edgardo Pineda
47. Juan G. Velasques
48. Albert Lock
49. Joseph D. Bernardo
50. Adrian V. Ocampo

Please be advised that SBGCC is offering the above-mentioned members an opportunity to finally settle their corresponding unpaid monthly on or above May 15, 2006. Otherwise SBGCC would be constrained to finally auction membership share with delinquent accounts. Payment may be made on an INSTALLMENT BASIS. For more details, please contact us at 535-7735.

(PDI–April 23, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

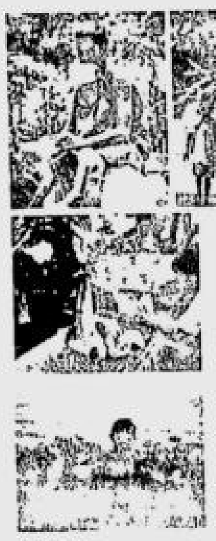
Reduce Poverty & Promote Social Justice

BID NOW!!!

:: **Start up Eco-Enterprise** projects that are economically viable,environmentally sound, and with social/community orientation with a maximum grant amount of P1,500,000.00

:: **Capacity Building** or projects in support to eco-enterprise development &/or community-based livelihood projects with a maximum grant amount of P500,000.00

:: **Advocacy** projects that focus on Asset Reform, Development Financing, Women and Environment with a maximum grant amount of P100,000.00



Important Dates to Remember		
	1st Batch	2nd Batch
Cut-off date for submission of concept paper	May 30	August 15
First screening/announcement of short-listed proponents	June 5	September 4
Deadline for submission of full blown project proposal	July 5	October 4
Second level screening/Field appraisal	July 5-31	October 5-31
Announcement of successful proponents	August 30	November 30

The Foundation for a Sustainable Society, Inc. (FSSI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to empower marginalized communities through its support and promotion of eco-enterprises that are socially equitable, ecologically sound and economically viable.

Open to all duly-registered/accredited NGOs, POs & cooperatives

To pre-qualify, submit a **3-page concept paper** with the following information:

:: Proponent's profile (Brief history, VMG and programs/services, areas of operation)
:: Project description (Rationale/Objectives, Components and key activities)
:: Expected results of the proposed project
:: Project duration & target start up.
:: Indicative budget & requested financial assistance

Submit a Board Resolution indicating your application w/ FSSI and authorized/designated representative/s.

Log on to FSSI website:www.fssi.com.ph for more details. Email fssi@fssi.com.ph or mail your concept papers to 46E Samar Ave. cor E. Lopez St., South Triangle, Q.C. We will not entertain follow-up mails or calls.

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International, Inc. is soliciting offers for:

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRISM's BEST IUD TRAINING SYSTEM AND CURRICULUM

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for family planning (FP) services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

Building the capacity of the service providers specifically the private midwives is one key strategy to achieve the goal of Component 3. As such, based on PRISM Second Annual Work Plan, Component 3 shall ***finalize at least nine (9) Business Enhancement Support and Training*** (BEST) ***courses for private providers*** according to the tiers as defined in the component revised strategy.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified Philippine-based training institutions and non government organizations, consulting companies and other private sector institutions (hereafter referred to as "Offerors") for the development and implementation of PRISM's BEST IUD Training system and curriculum.

Qualification Requirements

- Must be a Philippine or US-based training institutions, consulting companies, foundations, or non-government organizations and other private sector institutions
- Must be in operation for the past 3 years and have relevant experience in family planning or reproductive health
- Must have a team of qualified personnel to manage and execute the project.
- Must have a positive net worth for 2004 or 2005 whichever is applicable

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please get in touch with Mr. Roldan B. Ramos, Subcontracts Specialist at tel no. (02) 635-2397 local 226. Interested parties may also email: rramos@prism.org.ph to request a copy of the RFP.

The deadline for submission of proposals is on or **before 5:00 P.M, Wednesday, May 24, 2006.** Please see RFP for instructions on proposal submission.

Questions on RFP must be submitted not later than **May 17, 2006** by e-mail at rramos@prism.org.ph . PRISM will e-mail the clarifications on the RFP to all the bidders who have received a copy of the RFP. The PRISM project reserves the right to summarize answers and respond to only those questions that in its judgment represent material value in clarifying the RFP.

PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation is issuing its 2006 Call for Proposals for sustainable forest management projects of non-government organizations or community-based organizations.

Deadline for Submission: *June 6, 2006*
Maximum Amounts in two categories: Capacity Enhancement Grants (*P500,000.00) and Area Grants (P2,000,000).*

Proposals sent in by mail must be postmarked on June 6, 2006 and sent to : PTFC Foundation, Inc., Unit I Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd, Malate, Manila. Proposals may be emailed to **admin@gubat.org** with the subject line PROPOSAL PTFC.

Proposed activities must deliver measurable results that support one or more of the following:

1.1 Establishment, restoration, protection and maintenance of parks, protected areas and reserves. Such activities could include, for example, demarcation of protected forests and buffer zones, identification of unique or representative forest areas, or inventory and protection of areas featuring species richness and high levels of endemism.

1.2 Development and implementation of scientifically sound systems of natural resource management, including land and ecosystem management practices. Such activities could include, for example, forest inventory, assessment and monitoring; implementation of criteria and indicators for forest conservation and sustainable management; or testing and application of silvi-cultural techniques.

1.3 Training programs to increase scientific, technical and managerial capacities of individuals and organizations involved in forest conservation efforts. Such activities could include, for example, short- term training courses, internships and study tours; development of community extension services; environmental education and public awareness programs; enhancement of university curricula in forest management or conservation biology; or education and training to develop capacity of local nongovernmental organizations.

1.4 Restoration, protection or sustainable use of diverse animal and plant species. Such activities could include, for example, rehabilitation of degraded forests; sustainable hunting, fishing, animal farming; improvement of forest health and vitality; or efforts to assess/ address illegal logging.

1.5 Research and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest plant life to treat human diseases, illnesses and health related concerns. Such activities could include, for example, ethnobotany studies; sample collection and analysis; or technical document preparation, publication and dissemination.

1.6 Development and support of the livelihoods of individuals living in or near a tropical forest in a manner consistent with protecting such a tropical forest. Such activities could include, for example, development of community- based and women's enterprise involving wood or non-wood products; application of low impact logging practices; or development of multiple-use tree species outside natural forests.

1.7 Activities related to coastal forest resources management and protection, including combating illegal logging and developing sustainable community-based enterprises.

Priority will be given to eligible activities implemented in more highly threatened dipterocarp or mangrove forest biodiversity areas, and support activities identified as strategic including combating illegal logging and developing sustainable community-based enterprises.

Eligible institutions are non-governmental environmental, forestry, conservation, and indigenous people organizations of, or active in, the Philippines, including those involved in development, education, science research, or forest management. They must be duly-registered with government regulatory bodies. Projects that involve local communities in their planning and execution are preferred. Individuals undertaking applied research under 1.2 and 1.6 above are eligible to apply under the P500,000 category.

For proposal format and further details, please call 02 524-5827 or visit the website at www.gubat.org

(PDI - April 23, 2006)

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Cannes 304	56 sq.m.	P 1,884,800.00
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* All Units with 2 Bedrooms and Drying Area
* For inquiries, call 884-1255 look for Ms. Leny Parreñas or Shiela Bugaoan (UCPB Gen)

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SERENDRA
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THE RESIDENCES
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BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

Location : B2 L4 Molino Parkhomes, Bacoor, Cavite
Description : Townhouse
Area : 65.00 sqms.
Floor Price : P502,900.00

* subject to bank's approval & subject to change without prior notice to the public*

For inquiries, please call:
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 811-9797

(PDI–April 23 & 30, 2006)

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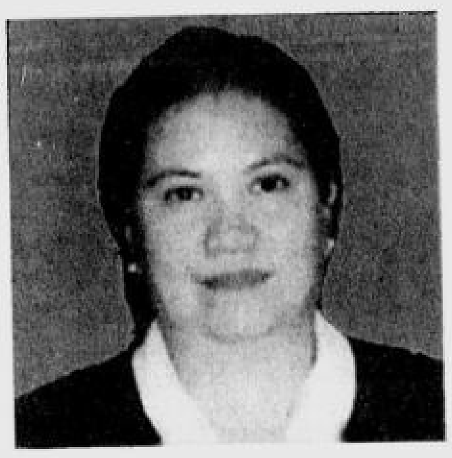
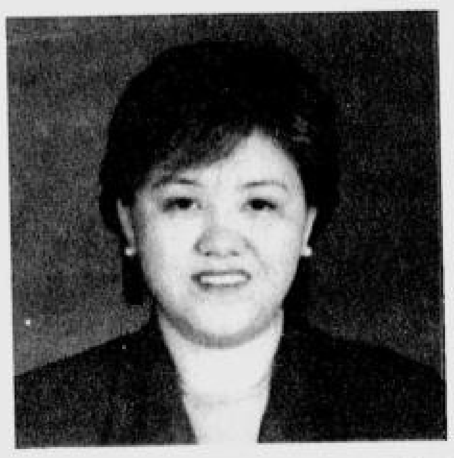
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



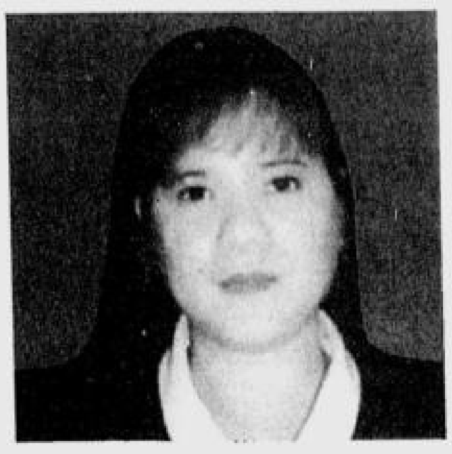
ARMI G. MANCENIDO

A resident of
Lot 23, Blk. 21, Phase 2
Bonifacio District
Horacio Dela Costa 3
San Jose del Monte, Bulacan



ELIZABETH J. CONCEPCION

A resident of
Lot 4, Blk. 34, D. Trinidad St.
Rainbow Village 5, Phase 2
Bagumbong, Caloocan City
- and -
No. 82 Premium St. GSIS
Village Project 8, Quezon City



MA. DINNA G. JUAN

A resident of
Lot 40, Blk. 20, Mt. Elgon St.
Cresta Verde Executive
Subdivision, Novaliches
Quezon City

The above persons have been accused of the crime of **QUALIFIED THEFT** in Criminal Cases No. Q-05-138062 to Q-05-138076 before Branch 76, RTC, of Quezon City.

Warrants of Arrest have been issued.
A reward will be given to anyone who can provide information leading to their arrest.
Please call any of the following numbers:
0920-4347463 or **0916-2548829.**

PRE-SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Development Alternatives, Inc. invites Non-Government Organizations, Private Firms, Consulting Organizations, and Academic Institutions to bid for provision of Technical Services in Environmental Management Activities under the USAID-funded Philippines Environmental Governance 2 (EcoGov 2) Project (USAID Contract # 492-C-00-04-00037-00)

General Information

Document Type	:	Pre-Solicitation Announcement
Solicitation Number	:	RFP-492-C-00-04-00037-00-IQS
Release Date	:	May 5, 2006
Closing Date	:	June 19, 2006

Description

EcoGov 2 is a United States Agency for International Development-funded program in partnership with the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), as the prime contractor, implements the project to promote improved management of the country's forest and coastal resources; better management of solid waste, and municipal investment in sanitation. The project also seeks to strengthen the government institutions responsible for natural resource management. EcoGov provides technical assistance to LGUs and other partners in the aforementioned sectors; and employs advocacy and outreach to increase awareness, strengthen political will, and change behavior. We work with LGUs, the DENR, people's organizations, and other partners in Mindanao (Region IX, ARMM, and Region XII), Central Visayas (Region VII), and Northern Luzon (Region II), as well as with national agency partners in Manila, but could expand to other areas in the country as opportunities and funds allow.

DAI intends to issue between 8-20 indefinite quantity subcontract (IQS) agreements with individual ceiling amounts as high as $100,000. Organizations that receive an IQS agreement will then receive individual assignments (called "task orders") through which DAI requisitions relevant services. Subcontracts may have a duration that extends through 2009.

DAI intends to issue a written solicitation (a Request for Proposals, or RfP) on approximately May 5, 2006 describing eligibility requirements and the complete proposal process. The closing date for receipt of proposals shown in this notice is tentative; the final closing date will be designated in the RfP. Offerors may be for-profit or not-for-profit officially registered organizations, firms, or institutions. Proposals will be limited to demonstrations of past performance, statements of organizational capacity, qualifications of personnel, and detailed statements establishing cost and pricing of services on an indefinite basis. Qualified offerors will be those that show the ability to construct such prices and demonstrate their ability accept a subcontract of the revenue and magnitude suggested here.

Requests for bid documents may be sent to: May Culibao, DAI-EcoGov, Unit 2401 Prestige Tower, F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605; fax: 632-637-8779; e-mail: may_culibao@dai.com. All requests should include company name, contact point, address, phone number, and e-mail address(es). We will release the RfP on May 5 electronically and in hard copy. Those offerors which provide an e-mail address will receive the bidding documents most quickly. Therefore, you may wish to provide more than one e-mail address with your request.

DAI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, and waive any defect or required formality and award the contract(s) to any bidder(s) whose proposal as evaluated by the project evaluation committee is the most advantageous to DAI. DAI assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

Note that this is a pre-solicitation notice and not the RfP. Organizations should not submit any materials at this time other than a request for the RfP.

Point of Contact: May Culibao, Administrative Officer. Fax: (632) 637-8779. may_culibao@dai.com

(PDI--April 23, 2006)

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MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and qualified bidders to undertake the following:

Description	Date of Bidding	Participating Fee
Supply of Labor, Materials, Expertise and Technical Know How for the Repair of Aircon System of MWSI Offices.	May 5, 2006	P 1,000.00
Supply of Labor, Materials, Expertise and Technical Know How for the maintenance of Lighting and Power System of MWSI Offices.	May 4, 2006	P 1,000.00

Bid Forms are now available and can be secured at Purchasing Department, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City upon payment of the non-refundable participation fee.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposal, waive any formality or defect therein and will accept only the bid which is most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **LUIS Z. LERMA**
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - April 22 & 23, 2006)

PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Agent's Temporary Receipts (ATRs) listed below were reported lost/could no loger be accounted for:

ATR BOOKLET/SERIAL NOS.

000626-000650; 000676-000700; 000726-000750; 000751-000775; 000776-000800; 000801-000825; 000826-000850; 000851-000875; 000876-000900; 000901-000925; 000926-000950; 000951-000975; 000976-001000.

00025676-00025700; 00034751-00034775; 00446476-00446500; 00079526-00079550; 00086326-00086350; 00089776-00089800; 00091001-00091025; 00098126-00098150; 00144901-00144925; 00145076-00145100; 00166201-00166225; 00182401-00182425; 00280551-00280575; 00280651-00280675; 00337751-00337775; 00356026-00356050; 00384926-00384950; 00384951-00384975; 00404201-00404225; 00404601-00404625; 00418226-00418250.

Any transaction resulting from the issuance of the subject ATRs will not be honored by Philamlife after this publication.

Approved By:

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO J. FERNANDEZ, SAVP**
Business Compliance Department

(PDI--April 23, 2006)

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dti

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of janitorial and allied services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of one (1) year, with an approved budget of Sixteen million pesos (Php 16,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **24 April to 8 May 2006** during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H. Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996, after paying a non-refundable fee of Sixteen thousand pesos (Php 16,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on **8 May 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on **22 May 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MA. LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-April 23 & 30, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project : Lease of a portion of the 2nd floor of the Administration & Finance (A&F) Bldg., CCP Complex

Brief Project Description : The space at the 2nd floor of the A&F Bldg. with an area of 654.73 sq. meters located at the corner of Fernando Ma. Guerrero and Julian Felipe Sts., CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting **April 21, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 28, 2006; 3:00 p.m.**, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **May 12, 2006, 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **May 12, 2006, 2:00 pm** at the CCP Board Room, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Tel. Nos.	632-832-3667 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No.	632-551-5960
Website	www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NIEVES T. DULDULAO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-April 22 & 23, 2006)

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN., INC.
(Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSN., INC. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006 AT THE SEABEES SOCIAL HALL, BNS, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

COMMO DANTE Z RUIZ AFP (RET)
President

(PDI – April 22 & 23, 2006)

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BPW EMPLOYEES HOUSING ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Re: Sale of the Association's Individual Member's Lots situated at Lingunan, Valenzuela City.

To reiterate the notice last February 19, 2006 and March 19, 2006 published in the Manila Bulletin and Philippine Daily Inquirer respectively. Please be notified that the Association is presently negotiating for the sale of the aforementioned lots.

Members are hereby requested to contact Engr. Nestor Agustin at 0917-8007824 or Ruben Trinidad at rt70@yahoo.com

(PDI - April 23, 2006)

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CAGAYAN DE ORO
Venue: UBP Lapasan Br. DL: (088) 856-3805

DAVAO
Venue: UBP Recto Branch
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RESIDENTIAL / AGRICULTURAL

BACOLOD CITY	MIN BID
Medel / Woodstock Quest Subd, Tangub (near Bacolod Bel-Air Subdivision)	
1. Lot 47 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
2. Lot 48 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
3. Lot 49 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
4. Lot 50 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
5. Lot 59 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
6. Lot 60 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
7. Lot 73 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
8. Lot 74 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
9. Lot 83 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
10. Lot 84 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
11. Lot 85 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
12. Lot 86 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
13. Lot 95 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
14. Lot 96 Blk 13 / LA 72	80,000
15. Lot 97 Blk 13 / LA 92	101,200
16. Lot 102 Blk 13 / LA 91	100,100
17. Lot 75 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
18. Lot 76 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
19. Lot 77 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
20. Lot 78 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
21. Lot 79 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
22. Lot 80 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
23. Lot 81 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
24. Lot 82 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
25. Lot 87 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
26. Lot 88 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
27. Lot 89 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
28. Lot 90 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
29. Lot 91 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
30. Lot 92 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
31. Lot 93 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
32. Lot 94 Blk 13 / LA 72	65,000
33. Lot 98 Blk 13 / LA 92	83,000
34. Lot 100 Blk 13 / LA 92	83,000
35. Lot 101 Blk 13 / LA 92	83,000
La Herencia Negrense Subd,Mandalagan	
36. Lots / L-2&5 B-8 / TLA-585	644,000
37. Lot / L-11 B-12 / LA-655	721,000
38. Lot / L-29 B-27 / LA-435	479,000
39. Lot / L-31 B-27 / LA-413	455,000
40. Lot / L-32 B-27 / LA-350	365,000
41. Cor Lot / L-33 B-27 / LA583	700,000
42. Cor Lot / L-2 B-31 / LA-601	722,000
43. Cor Lot / L-13 B-31 / LA689	827,000
44. Cor Lot / L-28 B-28 / LA675	810,000

CEBU	MIN BID
Busay–Cebu City (near Jardin De Busay)	
45. Resl Lot / L- 2-C-2, LA-393	254,000
46. Resl Lot / L-2-C-3, LA-393	254,000
Banilad – Ma. Luisa Estate Park Subd.	
47. Lot / Lots 20 & 6-D Paseo Annette / TLA 1,158	5,211,000

ILOILO	MIN BID
Gines Viejo, Passi City	
48. Lot 1 Blk 2 / LA 265	53,000
49. Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 243	49,000
50. Lot 3 Blk 2 / LA 256	52,000
51. Lot 4 Blk 2 / LA 276	56,000
52. Lot 1 Blk 3 / LA 230	46,000
53. Lot 3 Blk 3 / LA 220	44,000

BUTUAN CITY	MIN BID
Alviola Village, Ampayon	
54. Lot 17 Block 36 / LA 320	112,000

RESIDENTIAL / AGRICULTURAL

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	MIN BID
Puerto Hts. VIII., Puerto (near P. Market)	
55. Lot / L 34 Blk 1 / LA 323	1,236,000
56. Lot / L 25 Blk 2 / LA 343	1,312,000
57. Lot / L 4 Blk 5 / LA 384	1,469,000
58. Lot / L 5 Blk 5 / LA 363	1,389,000
59. Lot / L 8 Blk 5 / LA 369	1,412,000
60. Lot / L 10 Blk 5 / LA 445	1,703,000
61. Lot / L 14 Blk 5 / LA 440	1,683,000
62. Lot / L 16 Blk 5 / LA 308	1,179,000
63. Lot / L 6 Blk 6 / LA 314	1,201,000
64. Lot / L 7 Blk 6 / LA 350	1,339,000
65. Lot / L 10 Blk 6 / LA-305	1,167,000
66. Lot / L 11 Blk 6 / LA-318	1,217,000
67. Lot / L 20 Blk 6 / LA-304	1,163,000
68. Lot / L 26 Blk 6 / LA 357	1,366,000
69. Lot / L 30 Blk 6 / LA 353	1,351,000
70. Lot / L 3 Blk 7 / LA 386	1,477,000
71. Lot / L 4 Blk 7 / LA 404	1,546,000
72. Lot / L 5 Blk 7 / LA 375	1,435,000
73. Lot / L 6 Blk 7 / LA 393	1,504,000
74. Lot / L 7 Blk 7 / LA 360	1,377,000
75. Lot / L 8 Blk 7 / LA 383	1,465,000
76. Lot / L 9 Blk 7 / LA 370	1,416,000
77. Lot / L 10 Blk 7 / LA 402	1,538,000
78. Lot / L 12 Blk 7 / LA 376	1,439,000
79. Corner Lot / L 19 Blk 7 / LA 3	1,563,000

DAVAO CITY - Ma-a, Talomo	MIN BID
Interior (beside Las Terrazas)	
80. Lot 410 E 1 / LA 12,000	5,520,000
81. Lot 410 E 2 / LA 12,000	5,520,000
82. Lot 410 E 3 / LA 12,059	5,550,000
83. Lot 410 E 4 / LA 12,000	5,520,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY	MIN BID
84. Agricultural Lot / Lot-3, Brgy. Conel / LA 67,668	3,440,000
85. Resl. Lot / Lot-1347-B-4 Cabe Subd./ LA 10,038 (with Lis Pendens & occupants)	9,544,000

COMMERCIAL

CEBU CITY – Port Centre	MIN BID
86. *Lot 3,Cabahug St.LA 1,100	15,405,000

CEBU CITY – Basak Pardo	MIN BID
87. * Ind'l Lot w/ W'Houses Lots 4761 & 4768,Cebu South Rd TLA 3,109/TFA 2,499 (on lease)	21,600,000
88. *Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Hse/ Offc. Lots 4759, Cebu South Road LA 2,688/TFA 2,186 (On lease)	18,400,000
89. *Comml. Lot w/ 6 sty Bldg L-7624-C -1-B & 7624 C-3,Colon Pahina Central Sambag / LA 660 70 TFA 2,797 (on lease)	76,005,000

MISAMIS ORIENTAL	MIN BID
90. *Ind'l Lot w/ bldgs,Old Natl Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan TLA 5,464/TFA 1,589(beside Pilipinas Kao)	9,257,000

DAVAO CITY (nr. Magsaysay Park)	MIN BID
91. * Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L-3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D, P. Bangoy / TLA 1,976	27,230,000
92. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 & 1-L-3-H-3-B-2, J.Luna / TLA 544	4,004,000
93. Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3, Juan Luna / TLA 271 (w/ occupants)	2,000,000

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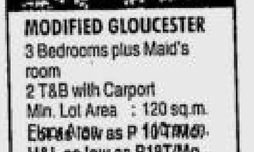

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LoyolaGrand Villas QC 650m² Brazil@8,800: 0917-8511193

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Must sell 3Lots 762 Sqm 09195998039 Guad Nuevoo

PARKPLACE 120m² @P5,750/m² PARKPLACE 149m² @P5,023/m²ST. CHARBEL 371m² @P2,399m² DON BOSCO EXEC HTS 128m² @P2,148 /m² Vic 8903461 LOC 27

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QC Apo Square Lot 400m² P10M 721-2166 / 0917-8828881

RAINBOW VILLAGE V LA216m² Brand New House 3Bdrms 2T&B P1.95M Vic 8903461 loc 25

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,121/m² Vic 8903461 Loc 27

SOUTHPEAK P5,000/m² 240m² Vic / Gigie 8903461 loc 25 / 27

TAGAYTAY 202m² Lot P700T Filipinas Farm Nr. Picnic Groove 7212166 / 09178818882

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FARM 60ha Sampaloc Tanay Rozal P200/sqm clean title with century mangoes Call 6697128 / 09179959723

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   Bauan, Batangas
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Ladies Mla Sta Mesa7146256

BEDSPACE

LDY NR WEL/RTNDA 7127557

Mktl nr Ayala 1T Lady 8974697

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'03 FRONTIER 4X4 3.2 A/T 09198314573

•2001 MB100 Van Silver• Captains seats Call 912-7731 Office New compressor tires 09178122559 Eva

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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*Office Secretary with accounting
- 23-35 yrs. old, fluent in English
- 4 years college graduate
- 8:30am-6pm, use Excel, Words .
- *Contact:* Cindy Lee (09215672172)

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

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YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS : TERMS -T7213124

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Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

GREAT DANE SIMBA LINE MALE 5MOS PAPERS SHOTS P10T NEG 0922-4072855

GREAT DANE PUPS 8257340

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LAB PUPPIES PCCI w/ Shots 2mos. 6306077 / 09196755971

LAB PUPPIES PCCI W/SHOTS 2MOS 6306077/09196755971

SHITZU STUD 3T 4120256

PCCI
ANNUAL MEETING
OF VOTING MEMBERS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS
2:00 PM, 20 May 2006
Lakandula Function Room
Sulo Hotel, Quezon City
Deadline for submission of proxies
5:00 PM, 15 May 2006
at the PCCI Office

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Bidding:
1998 PATROL SAFARI all power and original Start Bid: P500thousand Call 9217203 c/o Elren for further details.

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on **April 29, 2006 at 9:00 AM.** Including all items pawned up to November, 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer (PDI-April 23,2006)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction
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All unredeemed articles
from Dec.. 1-30, 2005
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109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

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0922-8113261

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Given that the Estate of the late CONSTANTINO C.MAYOR has been extrajudicially settled among heirs Before NotaryPublic Romerico Espera of Quezon City as Per Doc No. 434,Page No. 87 Book No. VIII Series of 2006.
(PDI-Apr. 23,30&May 7,2006

Notice is herby given that the Estate of the late Spouses Nicodemus and Amanda Domingo was extrajudicially settled between their heirs as per Doc No 242,
Page No 49,Book No LXXIII Series of 2006 as per Notary Public Atty. Sofronio C. Untalan Jr.
(PDI -Apr. 9,16 & 23,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses CARLOS M. de GUZMAN and CONSTANCIA ABEBUAG-de GUZMAN have been adjudicated by the heirs per Doc#24, Page#8, Book#43 Series of 2005 before Notary Public Jesus B. Bongon of Pasay City.
(PDI-Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver notarized as Doc. No. 459, Page No. 93, Book No. IX, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Rufino Opulencia is executed by the sole descendant legal heirs of DOROTEA MANALO, absolute owner of the land described in Tax Dec. No. 02106, Prop. Index No. EI-044 of the City of Calamba.
(PDI-April 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Rovin G. Asperilla who died on Aug. 26, 2000 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Hobart T. Cocadiz as per Doc. No. 514, Page No. 104 Book No. 06 Series of 2006
(PDI - April 23 , 30 & May 7, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Horacio C. Jimenez was extra-judicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. # 241, Page # 49, Book # 17, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Arlene J. Carbon of Taytay, Rizal (PDI-April 9, 16, 23, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses JUAN E. DOCTO & MENA TANADA-DOCTO have been adjudicated by the heirs per DOC#126, Page#27, Book I, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Aguedo L. Geple, City of Manila.
(PDI- Apr. 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SALVADOR Z. BERNAL who died on March 5, 2005 was extrajudicially settled in accordance with the extrajudicial settlement and partition duly executed by the heirs before Consul Enrico T. Fos, of Virginia, USA per Doc No. AC - 05 - 5830, Series of 2005, Service No. 6471, OR No. 006; Notary Public Asma Iqbal, Commonwealth of Virginia dated August 22, 2005.
(PDI - April 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice the Estate of Antonio Arandia who died on Mar. 11,'06 was adjudicated by his only surviving child & sole heir Irene C. Arandia before Notary Public Atty. C. Bayon Eta Jr. Under Doc No.42; Page No. 10;Book No. IV;Series '06
(PDI- Apr. 9,16,23'06)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is herby given that CMP Stock Cert#307 under Roberto Arandela for 3000 shs. has been declared lost.If no contest received,new stock cert. will be issued.
(PDI- Apr. 9,16,23'06)

Notice is hereby given that LANDBANK Bonds with Serial Nos. AR-0042612 and AR-0042577 under Palay, Inc. have been declared lost.
(PDI-April 23, 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Certificate No. 1742 for one (1) properietary share of the VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. issued to AMANDO D. DUMLAO, JR. was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI - April 16, 23 & 30, 2006

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT. R

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JOSE (PEPE) R. LIWAG, SR.

Born : May 9, 1929
Died : April 22, 2006
Age : 76

of TIAONG, QUEZON & SAN PABLO CITY

Preceded by first wife:
JUANITA HERNANDEZ

Survived by second wife:
Zenaida Alcantara

Children: **Jojo** and **Boots**, **Jonas** and **Nancy**, **Zaida** and **Corrbie**, **Susan** and **Elson**, **Jaime** and **Anna Bella**, **Janet** and **Joselito**, **Jesse** and **Katinka**, **Lerma** and **Ike**, **Merly** and **Jimmy**, **Claro** and **Helen**, **Joan** and **Mike**.

Grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his C.M. Recto, Tiaong, Quezon residence.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 after the Holy Mass at Tiaong Parish Church and will be laid to rest at Tiaong Memorial Park.

Time will be announced later.

Our Beloved

JOSE P. OROLA

Former Manager, GSIS Engineering Department & Housing Department

Died in the Grace of the Lord on April 22, 2006 at the age of 93 at Veterans Memorial Hospital.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Guadalupe, Garden Suite Chapel.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park on Thursday, April 27, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

The family is requesting for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Atty. Purificacion C. Latoja

died in the Grace of our Lord on April 21, 2006 at the age of 79.

She is survived by her siblings **Conchita**, **Vivina**, **Honesto**, **Felicito** and **Juanita**, **Teresita** and **Reynaldo**, beloved nephews and nieces, **Tessie** and **Rollie**, grand nephews and grand nieces.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City on April 26, 2006. Time to be announced later.

In loving memory of

Trinidad Casas Cuyegkeng

March 1, 1922 – April 23, 2004

Sometimes I stop whatever it is I am doing and feel her smile. I miss her terribly and think of all our precious moments together. She continues to inspire me to be the best there is of me and I know that she is with me always.

To all of those who knew my Grandma, and generously shared her life with us, please remember her fondly and keep her close in your prayers.

"Together forever, together in our hearts
– Big Trining & Little Trining!"

Monica Trinidad C. Lualhati

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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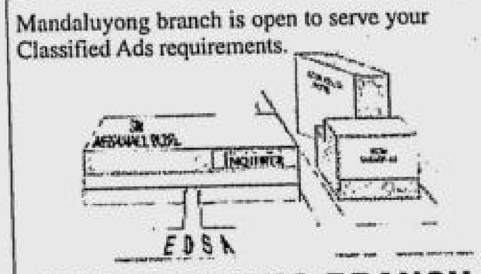


MANDALUYONG BRANCH
SM MEGAMALL 5TH LEVEL, BLDG. B, EDSA
TEL. NO.: 635-0219 / 637-2008
Contact Persons: Joy, Arnold, Randy & Arnel

CLASSIFIEDS

Con ocasión del primer aniversario de la defunción de

ASUNCION ORTIGAS de ORTIGAS

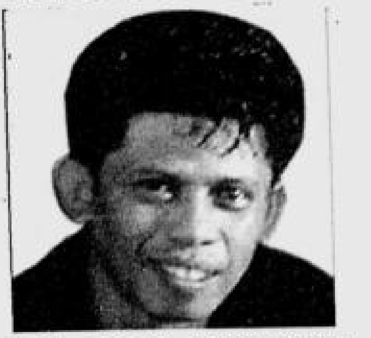
se celebrarán misas por el eterno descanso de su alma el lunes, dia 24 de abril de 2006, en las siguientes iglesias:

SAN AGUSTIN (Intramuros)	6:30 y 7:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE (Greenhills)	6:15 y 7:15 a.m. 6:15 p.m.
EDSA SHRINE (Ortigas Avenue)	6:30 a.m. , 12:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. y 7:30 p.m.
ST. FRANCIS (Mandaluyong)	6:00, 6:30 y 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
CHRIST THE KING (Greenmeadows)	6:00 y 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
MARY THE QUEEN (Greenhills)	6:00 y 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
CHAPEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY (Greenhills Shopping Center)	12:15 p.m.

**Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life
for my sake will find it.**
Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE



ROLANDO BINONDO
"LOLOY"
Biak na Bato, La Castellana, Negros Occidental

A WARRANT OF ARREST was issued against Rolando "LOLOY" Binondo for **QUALIFIED THEFT** (Criminal Case No. 06-060). **A REWARD** awaits any person who provides information leading to the successful arrest of Mr. Binondo. Please call 897-6285 or 0917-806-1806

(PDI - April 23, 2006)

CALLING ALL GRADUATES OF PEDRO GUEVARA MEMORIAL (NATIONAL) HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS 1976

KLASEBENTISIKS WILL HAVE ITS 30TH YEAR (PEARL ANNIVERSARY) HOMECOMING ON MAY 6, 2006 AT THE GOV. TERESITA LAZARO TRAINING CENTER IN PEDRO GUEVARA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL IN SANTA CRUZ, LAGUNA STARTING FROM 7 A.M..

PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING FOR DETAILS:

• MANNY GAUNA	– 09162574111
• ERIE GACIAS	– 09152578570
• NELIAN (RAMIREZ) GARALDE	– 09178963195
• GELITH (SANCHEZ) MACARIO	– 09195260854
• ANCHIT IDIAN	– 09178998049

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

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INVITATION TO RE-APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to re-apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Security Services
Location : various pumping stations, reservoirs, main office, collection units and other facilities of the BWD.
Approved Budget For the Contract : P46.90 per hour/guard (P6,196,897.00 per year)
Contract Duration : one (1) year renewable upon mutual agreement of the parties

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Eligibility checklist	4 May 2006
2. Submission of eligibility requirements	18 May 2006
3. Issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility	25 May 2006
4. Pre-bid conference	13 June 2006
5. Submission of bids by eligible bidders	26 June 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–April 23 & 30, 2006)

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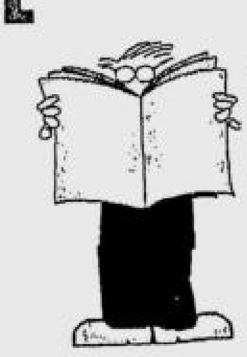

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TOP SECRETS of Handling BIR Audit

Sure-fire ways to save money without compromising your integrity

May 3, 4, & 5, 2006, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Holiday Inn Galleria

Day 1
- Letter of Authority (LA)
- First Notice
- Second Notice
- Third Notice
- Responsibility & Accountability of Bookeepers, Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials

Day 2
- Handling Report of Investigation
- Notice for Informal Conference
- Preliminary Assessment Notice
- Final Assessment Notice

Day 3
- BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- DOJ Fiscal Duces Tecum
- BIR Complaint Affidavit
- Preparing Counter Affidavit
- Preparation of Rejoinder
- Fiscal Resolution
- Ruling of Appeal to DOJ

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Speaker - Prof. Emelino Maestro
Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Auditor Ng Bayan; Founder of ETM Tax Agent Training Center; Author of 14 Accounting & Auditing Books.

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Inside information on handling BIR audit

FINALLY, A WORKSHOP THAT WILL REVEAL INSIDE INFORMATION ON sure-fire ways to save money without compromising your integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on May 3, 4, and 5, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. CPE Credits will be given to CPA's. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. The seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Please call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

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MULTI-PARTITE CONSULTATION MEETING
MARCH
MARCO DAVAO

MULTI-SECTORAL MEETING IN DAVAO CITY
Dr. Alan T. Ortiz (second from left), President of the National Transmission Corporation personally gives to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and Mindanao Economic Development Council Chairman Jesus Dureza (far left) a copy of his dissertation entitled "Towards a Theory of Ethnic Separatism: A Case Study of Muslims in the Philippines" during a recent multi-sectoral meeting in Davao City. Also in photo are NEDA Assistant Director Generals Rolando Tungpalan and Ruben Reinoso. Submitted for his Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania in May 1986, Ortiz' dissertation offers an academic perspective to the organization of Muslim separatist movements in the Philippines in post-war time. It introduced the concept of "permanent deprivation" which suggests that an ethnic group that perceives itself being permanently deprived of class, status, or power and is consequently subjected to intense, systematic and deliberate discrimination will organize into a separatist movement.

JOB *Market*

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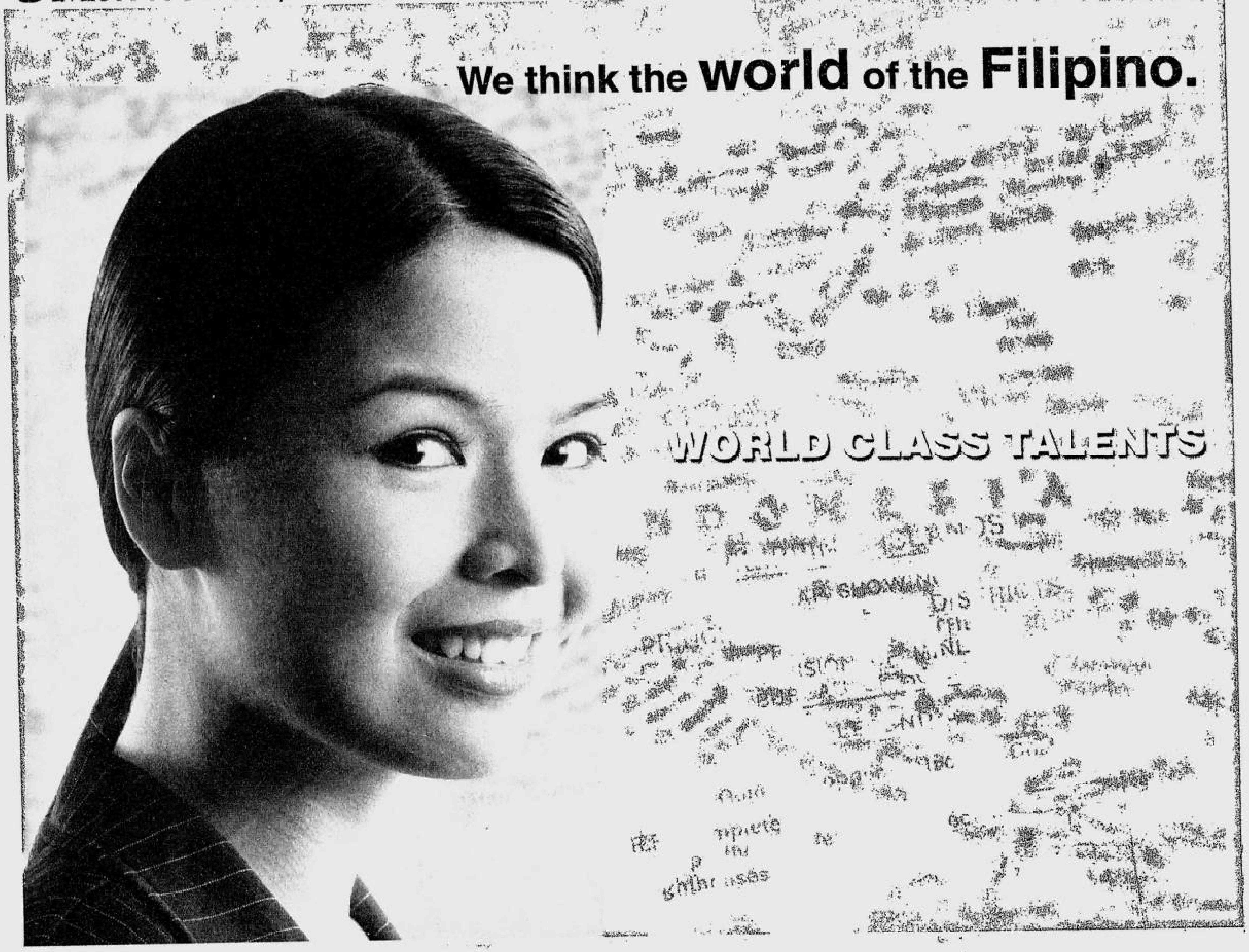

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Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

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Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

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(Makati)
Receive inbound calls to investigate caller inquiry through client systems, utilizing health care knowledge in responding to hospitals, physicians, and other medical providers. Candidates having medical background is an advantage but not a requirement.

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- OPERATIONS MANAGER (Commonwealth)
- CUSTOMER OPERATIONS PERFORMANCE CENTER COORDINATOR (Commonwealth)

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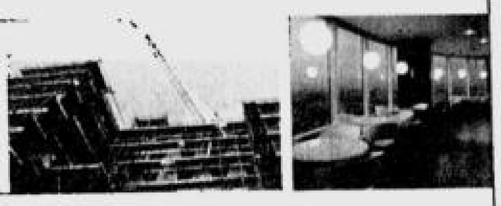
Environments Global is the holding firm of several service brands covering the real estate and construction industry. The group provides a broad range of product services including design consultancy, project management, design process re-sourcing and other solutions for the built environment. Environments Global is currently growing its coverage outside of Asia to include North America, Europe and the Middle East.



PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Job Code: PMO

He shall be responsible for managing schedule and manpower requirements in production of contract documents. He shall also undertake quality control in sheet composition, content and consistency in CADD standards.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration preferred
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Excellent communication skills required

CADD DESIGNER

Job Code: CAD

He shall be primarily responsible for generating working drawings

- College degree in Architecture
- At least 3 years experience in construction documentation for architecture (preferably high-rise) or interior design projects preferred
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Proficiency in modeling and graphic/rendering software an advantage

PROJECT OFFICER / ENGINEER / ARCHITECT

Job Code: PRE

He shall be responsible for construction supervision/inspection. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

- College degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering
- Professional registration preferred
- With 3 years experience
- Exposure in construction & fit-out preferred
- International exposure an advantage
- Computer literacy and proficiency preferred

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Job Code: PRM

He/she shall oversee production of contract documents, detailing and specifications writing for various project types. He shall also be responsible for coordination with clients and consultants (MEPS) to ensure architectural design/interior design intent is maintained. He shall be in-charge of final review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Strong leadership qualities, managerial and organizational skills required
- Has working knowledge of AutoCAD 2004/2005
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Code: PRC

He/she shall be responsible for over-all coordination with Client, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/Fire Protection and Structural (MEPS) engineering consultants from conceptual to construction documentation stages. He shall be in-charge of design review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

SPECIFICATIONS WRITER

Job Code: SWA

He shall be responsible for the preparation of specifications for all project types and for managing library of materials.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience as specs writer using AIA/CSI Masterformat
- Excellent written and oral communication skills required

ACCOUNTANT

Job Code: CAO

He/she will be tasked to maintain, monitor and analyze, using the SUN systems (1) Accounts Payable; (2) Fixed Assets; and (3) Bank Reconciliation.

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- College graduate of Accountancy
- At least three (3) years experience hands-on experience using SUN systems (Financial/Business)
- Proficient in MS Office
- Preferably experienced in Business Process Outsourcing or Shared Services industry
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Highly analytical and process-oriented

IT SUPPORT + DEVELOPER

Job Code: ITS

He/she shall be tasked with providing support for the company's Windows-based infrastructure, as well as the development, maintenance and support of internal information systems, including various database and intranet-based applications.

- Graduate of BS Computer Science or related courses from a reputable institution
- 3 years work experience in a fast-paced environment
- Strong background in one or more of the following: PHP, HTML, MS SQL Server, MySQL, and MS Access

DOCUMENT CONTROL STAFF

Job Code: DCS

He/she will be responsible for filing, storage and archiving of documents and will assist in the management and maintenance of reference materials.

- Must possess a college degree.
- Minimum of 1 year experience in general/administrative work, preferably in handling large volumes of documents and files.
- Proficiency in MS Office applications.
- Experience in an ISO-certified company an advantage.

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EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

POSITION : **Food Fortification Advisor**

A2Z Project/The Philippines

The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and implement micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in The Philippines will work with national and local government institutions, partner NGOs, private sector and research institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs. Technical intervention areas include vitamin A coverage, anemia reduction, food fortification, and mainstreaming micronutrients. The Manila-based Food Fortification Advisor will promote public-private sector interaction; contribute to the design, validation, implementation, and monitoring of quality control and inspection procedures associated with fortification; work with partners, USAID/Philippines, and A2Z/Philippines and HQ; and will work to extend food control practices in governmental and private sectors.

Required : Degree in chemistry, biochemistry, food science, food technology, or related field; minimum five years experience with food analysis, factory and retail stores inspection, application of Codex Alimentarius, food regulations; experience working with government officials, NGOs, private sector.

Preferred : Master's degree; experience with USAID programs and national institutions. Submit cover letter and resumé by **April 28, 2006** to **Academy for Educational Development**, 8/Flr. Ramon Magsaysay Center, Roxas Boulevard, Malate 1004, Metro Manila, Attention: Office Manager; or email: **a2z-philippines@aed.org**. No phone calls.

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- Bachelor degree holder of computer course or any 4-5 year business course
- Have at least 1 year sales experience preferably in IT related product
- Sales training and certification will be provided
- Must be good in verbal, presentation and written communication skills
- Hardworking, team-player, resourceful and good inter-personal skills
- Willing to learn is a must

Interested applicants may send their resumé personally at this address:

Suite 1116 State Center Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
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Cypress has aligned its organization along five market-focused segments: Wireless Terminals; Wireless Infrastructure; Wide Area Networks; Storage Networks and Solar cells.

Cypress Semiconductor is a global supplier of high-performance integrated circuits. Our global headquarter is located at San Jose California. Our strategic customer-leaders in the data communications, networking, telecommunications, personal computer markets and solar panel.

At Cypress, we strive to surpass current standards in the world's most competitive high tech arena. We take career growth of our people seriously. We provide training incentive in all levels. We reward success and hard work with competitive salary, tuition refund, employee bonuses, stock option and a flexible benefits package.

Candidates must be willing to travel and work in the night shift

At Cypress, winning is our business and we only hire the best.

*INTERNAL AUDITORS (Code: NRE - ROHQ - 1)

Job Description:
- The internal audit department furnishes analyses, recommendations, counsel, and information concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment management has established to reasonably help ensure: (a) the effectiveness and efficiency of operations; (b) safeguarding of company assets; (c) reliability of financial reporting; and, (d) compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- One of the major responsibilities of the internal auditor will be to conduct management testing of key internal controls to support Sarbanes Oxley section 404 Certification. This will include: (a) preparing test plans for key controls; (b) executing test plans; (c) documenting results; (d) recommending remediation steps for management to implement, where necessary; and, (e) assisting in the development and implementation of an on-going management testing process.
- In addition, the internal auditor will also participate in financial and operational audits focusing on the adequacy of the internal control environment. The position is responsible for completing fieldwork, explaining audit exceptions, recommending operational enhancements or efficiencies, documenting procedures, and preparing reports.
- The internal auditor will have extensive interaction with management at all levels of the organization.
- The internal auditor will work under the supervision of the Internal Audit Manager and must be able to work in a team environment as well as independently.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Project management skills
- Strong accounting cycle knowledge preferred, including Revenue, AP, AR, GL, financial reporting
- Knowledge of corporate governance regulations, laws (Sarbanes-Oxley) and corporate governance best practices
- Experience with COSO based assessment program
- Excellent written, oral communication skills and interpersonal skills are critical
- Must exhibit the ability to balance multiple, high priority projects simultaneously
- Excellent understanding and grasp of business concepts and operations
- Willingness to travel and occasionally work night shift during certain audits
- Excellent PC skills (Excel, Word, & Access, Project, PowerPoint, Visio)

Minimum Education and Work Experience:
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field. At least 3 years Audit experience is required. (i.e., Public Accounting Firm, Internal Audit, etc.) Achievement or the active pursuit of one or more of the following professional certifications is strongly preferred: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and/or Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

***Immediate Hiring**
****Immediate Hiring and Night Shift Work Schedule.**

** FINANCIAL ANALYST SENIOR (JCJ – ROHQ - 2) & FINANCIAL ANALYST SENIOR (BTX – ROHQ - 3)

Job Description:
- Handles Financial analysis function, Cost Accounting, Accounts reconciliation, Product Cost Tracking, Inventory Valuation, Spending consolidation.
- Maintains standard cost system and establishes new item setups. Ensure inventory values and product costs are accurate.
- Completes month-end close processes including reconciliation of all inventory accounts and various cost of sales/ variances accounts.
- Responsible for accurate, timely reports/results for multiple manufacturing locations. Provides as-needed analyses to various internal customers including Product lines.
- Identifies Division Finance accounting issues, recommend policy/procedure improvements, and keep current on technical accounting pronouncements including Sarbanes-Oxley.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Knowledgeable of General Accounting Principles specifically in Inventory accounting. Excellent computer skills- that includes advance knowledge in Microsoft Applications (Excel/Word/PowerPoint) while experience in database query tools is an advantage.
- Must posses excellent verbal / written communications skills along with solid analytical ability. Ability to deal with varied situations and respond quickly and effectively given changing priorities and deadlines. Ability to function as team participant can work with all levels of management and with all business functions.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (BSBA) Accounting, preferably CPA. Required 5 to 10 years-related Accounting/Finance experiences, with a minimum of 5 years in General Accounting. Prior experience in Semiconductor Industry Cost Accounting and knowledge in Oracle Financials is highly preferred.

** CREDIT & COLLECTION FINANCIAL ANALYST SENIOR/ SUPERVISOR (SET – ROHQ - 4)

Job Description:
- Provides analysis and interpretation of the customers' financial status for proper evaluation of risk and the establishment of proper credit limits. Responsible for account management of multinational customers
- Interfaces with various departments to resolve collection issues. Major contributor to Cypress Accounts Receivable and Credit departments' projects to improve working capital

Job Specific Requirements:
- Good communication skills - oral and written. Knowledge of computer applications such as Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word. Oracle application exposure is desirable
- Experience with credit and collection principles, systems, and work tools is required. Willing and fit to work at night with premium compensation

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration majors in accounting. Public accounting experience or two to three years in the Semiconductor Industry as an Accountant or Senior Financial Analyst. Background in Credit and Collections or Accounts Receivable is required.

** BUYER 2 (Code: TZK - ROHQ - 5)

(Must be willing to work night shift, This is a night shift position)

Job Description:
- Responsible for a range of commodities or assignments; requiring the full use and application of standard purchasing techniques.
- Ensures timely acquisition of product or service requirements and maintenance of supplier relationships.
- Participates in supplier performance and/or cost reduction/continuous improvement programs.
- Negotiates standard contracts place basic purchase orders; Acquires and use market research in sourcing decisions.
- Applies established strategies and tactics to achieve goals; Participates in cross-functional team activities and
- Assists in the location of secondary sources of supply.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Skills: Spreadsheet, Word Processing and Presentation software skills highly recommended. Oracle purchasing modules experience a plus. E-mail and Internet Browser experience highly desirable. Must demonstrate effective communication, interpersonal and team skills

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Minimum Education / Experience: BS/BA degree plus two to four years experience or MS/MBA degree and up to three years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience. Requires working knowledge of standard purchasing systems and procedures.

** ACCOUNTANT SENIOR, PAYROLL (CID – ROHQ - 6)

Job Description:
- Processor of Cypress U.S. Payroll. Responsible in manual processing of checks bonus, final, severance, etc) and exempt employees PTO/Floating Holiday request (7/14 year Service Awards, PTO cash-out, accruals, adjustments).
- Upload HR, Creative Benefits, Ceridian and Prudential payroll data to payroll system through interface. Probusiness modification, addition and audit.
- Responsible in the execution of instructions from HRBP in connection with employee's pay. Payroll reports preparation after payroll transmission. Respond to issues submitted to Payroll Helpdesk and issues received by phone or through e-mail within 24 hours. Notifying and assisting Supervisors and Managers to correct timecard errors and approved timecards.
- Payroll Metrics data preparation to be submitted to the Payroll Manager for consolidation and upload to SSC website. GL upload to Oracle. Other duties that maybe assigned from time to time like PWC audit and SOX compliance.
- Filing of payroll instructions and reports.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Proficient in the use of electronic spreadsheets, customized computer systems and other computer applications. Excellent communication skills. Willing to work on graveyard shift.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- College Graduate, Major in Accounting. 3 to 5 years experience in Accounting with at least 2-year experience in local payroll.

** ACCOUNTANT SENIOR, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES (TGR - ROHQ - 7)

Job Description:
- Review, record, pay, close and reconcile payables & receivables transactions and prepare necessary reports within accounting guidelines and practices, government regulations, and company policies, procedures and specific instructions in order to provide services with quality that exceeds expectation to our customers such as the suppliers, buyers, requestors and the management.
- Assist AP/AR Manager in the overall supervision of AP/AR department, ensure compliance to SOX controls, prepares forecast and metrics.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Good communication skills - oral and written, knowledge in office applications like excel, powerpoint, word processor. Preferably with Oracle applications exposure. Familiarity with the impact/effect of basic payable transaction. Willing and fit to work at night.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration major in Accounting. Minimum of two years in Public accounting experience or two to three years in Semiconductor Industry as an Accountant or Financial Analyst

** SENIOR COST ACCOUNTANT – FINANCIAL ANALYST SENIOR (ING-ROHQ-3)

Job Description:
- Maintains standard cost system and establishes new item setups. Ensure inventory values and product costs are accurate.
- Completes month-end close processes including reconciliation of all inventory accounts and various cost of sales/ variances accounts.
- Responsible for accurate, timely reports/results for multiple manufacturing locations. Provides as-needed analyses to various internal customers including Product lines.
- Identifies cost accounting issues, recommend policy/procedure improvements, and keep current on technical accounting pronouncements including Sarbanes-Oxley.

Job Specific Requirements:
- Knowledgeable of General Accounting Principles specifically in Inventory accounting. Excellent computer skills- that includes advance knowledge in Microsoft Applications (Excel/Word/PowerPoint) while experience in database query tools is an advantage.
- Must posses excellent verbal / written communications skills along with solid analytical ability. Ability to deal with varied situations and respond quickly and effectively given changing priorities and deadlines. Ability to function as team participant can work with all levels of management and with all business functions.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (BSBA) Accounting, preferably CPA. Required 5 to 7 years-related Accounting/Finance experiences, with a minimum of 4 years in Cost Accounting. Prior experience in Semiconductor Industry Cost Accounting and knowledge in Oracle Financials is highly preferred.

** (4) ACCOUNTANT 1: A/P, A/R, CREDIT & COLLECTION, FINANCIAL ANALYST (TFT - ROHQ - 8)

Job Description:
- Handles Financial analysis function, Accounts Payables, Accounts Receivables, Cost Accounting, Accounts reconciliation, Product Cost Tracking, Inventory Valuation, Spending consolidation.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
- Good communication skills - oral and written, knowledge in office applications like excel, PowerPoint, word processor, Preferably with Oracle applications exposure. Willing and fit to work at night.
- Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration major in Accounting. 1 to 2 years' experience is a plus. High potential fresh graduate will be considered. Must have excellent communication skills.

** (4) NEW COLLEGE GRADUATE - NCGs ACCOUNTANTS (LAQ - ROHQ - 9)

Requirements:
- Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration major in Accounting.
- Good communication skills - oral and written, knowledge in office applications like excel, powerpoint, word processor,
- Preferably with Oracle applications exposure. Willing and fit to work at night.

** HR & IT SENIOR ASSISTANT (TFT - ROHQ - 10)

Specific Requirements:
- Preferably with at least 2 to 3 years' exposure on the following HR functional area: Manpower Staffing and Placement, Training & Development, Compensation, Employee Relations and Human Resources Information System.
- Graduate of Psychology and related course.
- Excellent communication skills - oral and written, knowledge in office applications like Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Access, PowerPoint, and Visio.
- Must be approachable, cheerful and with high energy level.

IT WEB DEVELOPERS, SOFTWARE ENGINEERS, & DATA BASE ADMINISTRATORS (WLE – ROHQ - 11)

(IT Candidates will be placed in our talent bank for 2006 requirements)

Specific Requirements:
- Thorough practical understanding of Computer Science principles. Specialized programming skills & proficiency in C, Java and Embedded SQL. Development experience in Oracle is required. Knowledge in Web Development and Design.
- Past work experience in Ingres will be a plus. Good knowledge of structured software design. Good Domain
- Knowledge in Manufacturing, Planning or Sales/Marketing areas for Semiconductor Industry.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree (BE/B.Tech) in Computer Science or Engineering. 2 to 5 years-minimum experience in Software development field in any of the following: C, Java, Linux/Unix and Databases programming and DB Administration.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumes (in word format) to:

rohq-sscjob@cypress.com

or mail to:
T.F.Tongco Human Resources Director (+Job Code)
Cypress Semiconductor Philippine Headquarters, LTD.
Regional Operating Headquarters
2nd Flr. Net One Center 26'Th St. Cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent Park West, Fort Bonifacio,
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SANDVIK

Sandvik Mining and Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group and a leading global supplier of machinery, cemented-carbide tools, service and technical solutions for the excavation of rock and minerals in the mining and construction industries. Annual sales amount to about SEK 20,600 M, with approximately 10,600 employees. International brands are Sandvik, Tamrock, Toro, EJC, Voest-Alpine, Eimco, Driltech, Rammer, Mission, Roxon etc.

We are seeking for people who are passionate about their work and possess the drive to excel to join us as:

AFTERMARKET OPERATIONS MANAGER

UNDERGROUND HARD ROCK MINING SEGMENT (Based in Manila, Philippines)

Sandvik Mining and Construction – Region South Asia has recently formed the new Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment in order to better focus on meeting customer needs. We are in need of an experienced professional to manage the aftermarket business in the region with strong focus on key countries such as Philippines, Indonesia and India.

This segment is expected to experience rapid growth in underground equipment including drilling rigs and associated tools, loaders and trucks. Key to developing the business will be a strong focus on the service, parts and contracts business, and associated service products.

This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, of own and dealers' personnel, to meet customers' expectations.

Cooperation with other customer segments in the region, product companies and counterparts from other regions is essential.

The position shall report to the Vice President, Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment based in the Philippines. Frequent travel within the region is expected.

The person should possess a tertiary education in Engineering or Business with at least 6 years' of operational and/or maintenance experience in the mining or related industry. Strong management and interpersonal skills are critical factors to the success of this job.

PRODUCT SUPPORT MANAGER

UNDERGROUND HARD ROCK CUSTOMER SEGMENT (Based in Manila, Philippines)

As the result of our new formation of the Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment in the region, we are now in need of an experienced professional to support the segment in this region focusing on key countries such as Philippines and Indonesia.

This position shall report to the Vice President, Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment and requires strong customer focus as well as an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Key responsibility is the ability to recommend value-added solutions and ensuring long term equipment performance and customer satisfaction. Success on the job will depend on the ability to work in a motivated team of account managers, aftermarket personnel and dealer's personnel to meet customers' expectation.

Cooperation with other customer segments in the region, product companies and counterparts from other regions is essential.

The person must have tertiary education in Engineering or Business with at least 6 years' of operation or maintenance experience in the mining industry. Strong management and interpersonal skills are critical factors to the success of this job.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

UNDERGROUND HARD ROCK CUSTOMER SEGMENT (Based in Manila, Philippines)

As the result of our new formation of the Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment in the region, we are now in need of an experienced professional to support the segment in this region.

This position shall report to the Vice President, Underground Hard Rock Customer Segment and requires strong customer focus as well as an in-depth understanding of the customer's business and recommending value-added solutions. The role of the Account Manager will be to coordinate and direct all business with a customer. Success on the job will depend on the ability to work in a motivated team of product managers, aftermarket personnel and dealer's personnel to meet customer's expectation.

Cooperation with other customer segments in the region, product companies and counterparts from other regions is essential.

The person must have tertiary education in Engineering or Business with at least 6 years' of operation or maintenance experience in the mining industry. Strong interpersonal, analytical and administrative skills are critical factors to the success of this job. Ability to compile tender documents will be an added advantage.

Interested applicants please email or write in with your full resumé, photograph, current/expected salaries, and contact number to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines) Inc.
Km 20, East Service Road
South Superhighway 1770, Muntinlupa City

Email: recruit.ssea@sandvik.com

MOUNT MALARAYAT
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

A world class recreation destination located in Lipa City needs you to fill the following positions:

✓ **HRD MANAGER (CODE HRM)**
- Female, between 30-40 years old, must possess a Bachelor's/College Degree in Psychology/Human Resource Management or the equivalent, with at least 5 years managerial experience in all facets of HR which include employee relations, labor relations, training, salary and benefits administration; Strong leadership and advanced interpersonal and people-handling skills; Results-oriented with high level of professionalism and integrity and a strict sense of confidentiality; Can lead and work in cross-functional teams; Must be adaptive, flexible, a creative thinker and emotionally intelligent.

✓ **COMPANY NURSE (CODE CON)**
- Male/Female, 22 years old and above; Registered Nurse; experience in the hospitality industry will be an advantage; Must possess good computer skills.

✓ **FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR (CODE FDS)**
- Female, at least 5'4", 25 years old and above, personable; Graduate of Hotel & Restaurant Mngt. or Tourism, with at least 3 years front office experience in a de luxe hotel and/or resort industry.

✓ **GUEST SERVICE AGENTS (CODE GSA)**
- Female-at least 5'4", or Male, at least 5'7", 22 years old & above, personable; Graduate of Hotel & Restaurant Mngt. or Tourism, with at least 1 year front office experience in a de luxe hotel and/or resort industry.

✓ **AIRCON TECHNICIAN (CODE ACT)**
- Male, 25 years old & above, certificate in A/C and refrigeration course; Experience in maintenance, installation and repair of A/C system and kitchen equipment; Experience in hospitality industry will be an advantage.

✓ **SECRETARY (CODE SEC)**
- Female, single, 23 years old–above, personable; Graduate of Computer Secretarial, Mass Communication or the equivalent, with above-average skills in verbal and written communication; Knowledgeable in computer; Candidate will be assigned in Makati-Sales & Marketing Office.

Applicants may send their résumé and transcript of record with photo to:

E-mail : jobs@malarayat.com
Fax # : (043)756-7933 – ATTENTION: HRD
Snail mail : Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Inc.
Barangay Dagatan, Lipa City, Batangas
HRD – (CODE ____)

A Growth-Oriented Company is in need of :

SALES COORDINATOR

Female. Not more than 30 years old.
Should have at least 6 months experience. Newly graduate of any field with strong eager aspirants are very much welcome. Experience in Realty & Property selling is a plus factor. Computer literacy is a must with an excellent communication and negotiation skills. Willing to learn, earn and travel.

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Male. Between 21 to 26 years old. Graduate of any 4 year course
Computer literate .With good interpersonal and communication skills.
Willing to travel to different cities in Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao

SALES ENGINEER

Male, not more than 35 years old
Must be a BSEE graduate w/ good communication skills
Trustworthy with good moral character, hardworking, aggressive and result oriented
Must have at least two (2) years experience in selling of electrical controls and distribution products.

New graduates are welcome to apply.
Bring your resume with 2x2 picture, Transcript Of Record
and apply in person to:
or email us at: hrd@kcic.com.ph

KC Industrial Corporation
1520 Mayhaligue cor. T. Mapua Streets
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines Tel: 732-0071 to 78

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SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, and the leading professional services firm in the country, invites suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS

- With at least 3 years programming experience in VB6, VB .Net/ .Net, Delphi, SQL 2000, Crystal Report
- Experience in XML, XSLT Programming is a plus
- Have been involved in all phases of System Development Life Cycle : System Analysis, Design, Coding, Testing, Implementation and Documentation
- Must have a good grasp of business requirements
- Must possess good interpersonal and analytical skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

COMPANY NURSE

- Female
- Graduate of BS Nursing, with a PRC license
- With at least 2 years of working experience as company or hospital nurse

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in a business-related course
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- Excellent typing skills and knowledgeable with MS Office
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

RECRUITMENT SUPERVISOR

- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, or Human Resource Management
- With 4-5 years work experience in the same capacity
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT

- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, or Human Resource Management
- Knowledgeable in MS Office
- At least 1 year relevant work experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Advertising/Media or equivalent
- Must be knowledgeable in graphic design, animation, web design, audio production, video editing, interactive CD authoring and basic photography
- At least 1 year relevant work experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

- Bachelor's degree in a business-related course
- With 3-4 years work experience as Financial Analyst
- Preferably a CPA

Competitive compensation, benefits, world-class training and professional growth await the successful applicants. To apply, email your resumé to **sgvhrd@ph.ey.com** or mail to:

Human Resources Group
3/F, SGV 1 Bldg.
6760 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226

CGIC
CORPORATE GUARANTEE & INSURANCE COMPANY

Corporate Guarantee & Insurance Company, Inc.

Corporate Guarantee and Insurance Company is a non-life insurance company with Head Office based in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Only on its 9th year of operations, CGIC has expanded its operations with branches located in Marilao, Bulacan and Libis, Quezon City.

As part of our continuing expansion and strategy to meet the prevailing business challenges, we are currently seeking dynamic and top-notch candidates for the following job opportunity:

LEGAL OFFICER

(To be assigned at Head Office in San Fernando, Pampanga)

Responsibilities:
- Reviews and monitors various recoverable claims;
- Handles recoverable claims collections;
- Handles customers with legal impediments;
- Prepares monthly Recoverable Claims Report and Collections;
- Assists Finance Department on their various reports to BIR, SEC and IC;
- Assists Sales and Marketing departments on legal matters.

Qualifications:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Legal Management or equivalent;
- At least 3 year(s) of working experience in insurance-related field is required for this position;
- An independent, committed and dedicated worker;
- Proficient in both oral and written communications;
- Full-Time position available

Hired candidate may expect competitive compensation package as well as unlimited opportunities for career and personal development. Qualified candidates may email application letter to the address below or submit it personally with the following: curriculum vitae, recent 2X2 photo, transcript of records and other pertinent credentials to:

LausGroup Corporate Center
Human Resources Management Division
San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel: (045) 963-1111 local 539/537/ Telefax: (045) 961-5618
Mobile No.: 0928 774 2945
Email: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES
Electronic Publishing

The *FINANCIAL TIMES*, one of the world's leading sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operation and requires additional staff for its data production and accounting teams. The ideal applicants must meet the attributes and formal skills below and should be able to start as soon as possible.

INFORMATION EDITORS

- ✓ Graduate of Library or Information Science or any relevant course
- ✓ Previous experience in a data production environment
- ✓ Excellent comprehension and content analysis skills
- ✓ Well-versed in fact checking and research using online tools
- ✓ Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays as required
- ✓ Have above-average English writing and editing skills
- ✓ Able to meet tight production deadlines
- ✓ Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel and Access and desktop publishing software packages
- ✓ Previous experience working for a multinational company

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- ✓ Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- ✓ At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- ✓ Adept in using Sun accounting system
- ✓ Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically intermediate Excel
- ✓ Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
- ✓ Willing and able to work on variable shift schedule as required
- ✓ Responsible, motivated and can work with minimum supervision and as part of a team

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, April 28, 2006, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Incomplete applications will not be processed

Visit our website www.ft.com

Maybank

Maybank is the largest banking group in Malaysia, one of the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top banks in the world. Backed by over US$50 billion in assets, it is present in major financial centers worldwide, including London, New York and Singapore.

Eight years ago, **Maybank** began to build its team in the Philippines. **Maybank** envisions to be the leading financial solutions provider, committed to meeting and exceeding customer expectations in the target markets it serves.

Join the team that shares this vision.
Grow with us.

LOANS STAFF

Responsible for pre–screening, encoding and updating loan applications, monitoring requests for credit investigation, inspection and appraisal, and conducting bank and credit checking.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four–year business course
- Preferably male, not more than 25 years old
- Organized, team player, with pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work long hours and go on field assignments when needed

ACCOUNT ASSISTANT

Supports in account management. This includes, but is not limited to: preparing loan proposals, monitoring interest rate pricing, obtaining documentary requirements from borrowers, preparing reports and liaising with internal and external clients.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four-year business course, preferably Marketing or Management
- Between 22-26 years old
- With at least 2 years working experience (experience in handling loans an advantage)
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer literate

CREDIT & COLLECTION / LOANS ASSISTANT

(for San Fernando Auto Lending Center)

Responsible for gathering accurate and reliable credit information through pre–screening loan applications and conducting field credit investigation.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four-year business course
- Preferably male (for Credit and Collection Assistant)
- Not more than 30 years old
- Willing to travel and work on field assignments
- Must know how to drive and has a valid driver's license
- Service-oriented, can work under pressure, can work under minimum supervision, responsible, willing to work long hours and a team player
- Computer literate

SERVICE ASSOCIATE

Tellering and other over the counter transactions, booking of deposits/withdrawals and other transactions under the Branch Tellering System.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four-year business course
- Preferably female and single, not more than 26 years old
- With good interpersonal and communication skills and pleasing personality
- Fast learner and able to work under pressure
- Computer literate and can operate the usual office machines

ACCOUNT OFFICER

(for Salary Loans)

Responsible for the solicitation and management of Salary Loan accounts.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four-year business course
- Between 25-30 years old
- With experience in salary loans marketing, evaluation and collection in a supervisory or junior officer level
- With good marketing skills and strong credit orientation
- Results-oriented and willing to work beyond regular office hours
- Computer literate

INVESTMENT TRADER

(for Trust Department)

Responsible for the daily canvassing and negotiation of rates, terms and volume of investment outlets and executes the purchase and sell instructions of the Investment Officer.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any four-year business course
- With at least 1 year experience in the same capacity
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible and aggressive
- Computer literate

HR ASSISTANT

Provides the necessary support and assistance to all endeavors of the HR Services Center to ensure timely and highly satisfactory service delivery in any, or at least one of the following areas: human resource acquisition, benefits administration, administration of HR activities pertaining to attendance, tardiness and leaves, employee information, database, records and files, and employee communications.

Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably of a behavioral science or business–related course
- Preferably female
- Must have knowledge in benefits administration (SSS, PhilHealth, PAG–IBIG)
- Proficient in MS Office
- Customer–oriented, with pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Willing to render overtime and do field work

AS/400 ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Performs system analysis and designs work in order to implement new and enhance existing application system functionalities to address business requirements related to the product and service delivery of various business units.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related course
- Systems Analyst or Analyst/Programmer Level
- With knowledge in AS/400 Commands, RPG/400 and/or COBOL/400 Programming
- Preferably with knowledge in banking applications, SIBS exposure, specialization on ATM application and project management skills
- Proactive, results–oriented and analytical

PC PROGRAMMER

Develops new programs and enhances existing programs of application systems to address business requirements related to the product and service delivery of the business units.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related 4-year course (fresh graduates are welcome)
- With knowledge of and working experience in C++/Visual C++
- Knowledge of other programming languages such as Visual Basic, VB.Net, SQL and MS Access
- Must be willing to work extended hours
- Working experience in any CA/SA Tellering System as branch operations staff also an advantage

COMPUTER OPERATOR

Responsible for ensuring that input files are properly entered, necessary output files are produced and reports and backup files are maintained. Also monitors system performance to ensure timely and accurate processing of production runs and timely setup of online operations.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related course
- Preferably male
- With experience in i5OS operation (AS/400), experience in Windows OS and basic networking an advantage
- Willing to work on graveyard shifts

RECONCILIATION ANALYST

Responsible for the daily reconciliation of the Due To/From Head Office account of branches and head office units, analysis and elimination of float items and timely submission of reports.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Accountancy or any business–related course
- Between 22-28 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in the same capacity
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Team player, with good work attitude and pleasing personality
- Analytical, keen on details, service–oriented, flexible, and hardworking
- Computer literate

Please mail your comprehensive resumé with photograph to:

MAYBANK PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resources
2/F Legaspi Towers 300
Roxas Boulevard corner Vito Cruz St., Malate, Manila

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NURSERY
PAIN NURSE
RADIOLOGY
RECOVERY
DAY PROGRAM UNIT

ABSOLUTELY NO PLACEMENT FEE FOR NURSES!!!

QUALIFICATIONS: *Registered Nurse*, Female, at least 2 years of experience in their specialized areas.

ALLIED HEALTH

Optometrist
Ophthalmology Support Supervisor
Certified Ophthalmic Assistant
Certified Ophthalmic Technologist
Certified Retinal Angiographer
Neurophysiology and Sleep Lab. Supervisor
Clinical Psychology
Physical Therapist
Assistant Physical Therapist
Play Therapist
PT/ Chiro Assistant Laser Skin Therapy
Respiratory Therapist
Gastroenterology Technician
Phlebotomist Technician
Laboratory Technicians
Pharmacy Technicians
Ophthalmic Technician
Neurophysiology and Sleep Lab Technician
Orthodontist/Prosthetics Technician
Radiology Technicians
Pharmacy Secretary

QUALIFICATIONS:A Diploma or/and certification with their fields, at least 3 years of experience above. Masteral Degree is an advantage.

OPERATIONS

CLERICAL WORKERS For:
ICU, Labor & Delivery, Maternity, Medical Surgical, NICU, Nursery & OPD, OR, Pediatrics, PICU

RECEPTIONIST For:
Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation, Radiology clerk Others: Encoder

QUALIFICATIONS: Must be a College Graduate in any fields, at least 2 years experience in office work

MAINTENANCE

Architectural Engineer - Civil Engineer - HVAC Engineer
Electrical Engineer - Structural Engineer

QUALIFICATIONS;

Candidates must be a licensed in their fields, and must have at least 3 yrs. or above working experience.

Secretaries for SAAD Nursing School

QUALIFICATIONS;

Graduate of BS – Education and at least must have an actual experience working in School as Secretary for 2 years and above.

"High compensation awaits the qualified candidates!!!"

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Tel. No.: 526-4838 /526-7317 / 521-5067
E-mail Address: pisco@info.com.ph / Website: http://www.placewellinternational.com

OTHER PLACEWELL BRANCH OFFICES

CAGAYAN BRANCH: 142 Engacia Bldg., Corales Street, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel.Nos. (088)2315745 Telefax (088)2315768

ILOILO BRANCH: 3rd Flr. Jesona Bldg. Jalandoni, Iloilo City
Tel.Nos. (033)3368309 Telefax (033)3368315

DAVAO BRANCH: 2nd Floor Aldoa Bldg., Hacienda Heights, Sasa, Davao City
Tel Nos. (082)2348940 Telefax (082)2330568
email address: pisco_dvo07@hotmail.com

You can also send your resumes online thru our e-mail pisco@info.com.ph
Please indicate in your e-mail's subject "APPLICATION FOR" & the POSITION you are applying for.

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS ! FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY

Credit Officer

(Credit Policy, Methodology and Information Systems Team in the Risk Management Unit)

Responsibilities

The position assists in establishing credit policies, methodologies, guidelines and procedures by providing analytical assistance necessary in assessing public and private sector borrowers' credit risk ratings; contributes to the preparation of country credit, quarterly Risk Management Unit (RMU) and quarterly Treasury reports and net income allocation paper; and performs stress testing on ADB's income projections.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Principal Credit Risk Management Specialist who heads the Credit Policy, Methodology and Information Systems team in RMU.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a bachelor degree in economics, finance or accounting.
- at least five years experience in commercial banks or consulting firms, preferably in the areas of credit and financial analysis.
- excellent command of written and spoken English; good memo composition and editing skills.
- good computer skills with sound knowledge of common word-processing, spreadsheets, and graphics software.
- ability to work with individuals from different cultural/national backgrounds.
- good interpersonal and communication skills.
- ability to manage priorities and workload within general schedule of work, instructions and standardized practices.
- ability to work with minimum supervision, and maintain composure under pressure.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. **EXT-N006-037(4)-RMU** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **5 May 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

PHILIPPINE TATLER

The **Philippine Tatler,** Manila's Premiere Lifestyle and Society Magazine has immediate openings for:

FEATURES WRITER
Applicant must possess excellent grammar, creative writing skills, and should be highly resourceful. Must be adept at writing in a variety of styles, although strong emphasis is placed on lifestyle-type articles. Applicant must have good work ethics and discipline to comply with deadlines. Those with previous magazine/newspaper writing experience will be given priority.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
A Certified Public Accountant that will lead the Accounting Department. Should have at least five (5) years experience in a management position. Qualities preferred: Orientation to cost and control, focus to budget adherence and ability to work with team members.

THE PUBLISHER
PHILIPPINE TATLER
Unit 11-A, 11th Floor, Manila Bank Building,
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

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Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa City
(049) 534-4518 (02) 699-5003

SIGN MAKER COMPANY IS IN NEED OF :

- COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST- Male/Female, 18-35 yrs. Old w/ knowledge in CorelDraw/ Photoshop/Acrobat/Adobe Illustrator
- PROJECT CONSULTANT(Agent)- Male/Female, 23-35 yrs. Old, full-time w/ pleasing personality
- SPRAY PAINTER- Male w/ experience at the same time w/ knowledge in paint mixing.
- NEON INSTALLER - Male w/ experience

"WILLING TO ASSIGNED IN LIBERTAD, MANDALUYONG CITY"

Apply at East Service Rd. South Super Hi-way Taguig M.M. Beside TUP School TEL. No. 839-0420/839-0422

Bayer CropScience

Our BioScience Group is in need of a:

District Commercial Manager

Be a part of a leading company in the development and commercialization of hybrid rice seeds

The candidate should have the following qualifications:

- BS degree in Agriculture, Agribusiness or Commerce
- With Proven Track Record in Sales of Agricultural Inputs in Field Crops and/or Hybrid Rice
- Experience in accounts management
- Strong leadership and excellent communication skills
- Team-player and can work with minimal supervision
- Fluent in Ilocano will be an advantage
- Male, preferably 28-35 years old

Interested parties may send a letter of intent, resumé and a recent 2x2 picture to:

Human Resource Department
Bayer Crop Science, Inc.
3/F Bayer House
Canlubang Industrial Estate
Calamba, Laguna
Attention: Cristina Malabanan
or Email to: cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com

The deadline for submission is on April 28, 2006

Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

BORAL

Sales Coordinator

LIBIS, QUEZON CITY

- **TEAM ENVIRONMENT**
- **CAREER GROWTH POTENTIAL**

Boral Plasterboard is the leading supplier of interior plasterboard wall and ceiling systems in the Philippines. It is part of the Lafarge Boral Gypsum Asia (LBGA), a joint venture between the Lafarge Group of France and Boral Limited of Australia.

This role, reporting to the Market Development Manager, is the initial point of contact for customers and as such, responsible for coordinating activities between the sales team and the clients. Other key tasks include responding to customer queries and requirements, preparing product literature/proposals and providing administrative support to the sales engineers.

Candidate must be a Marketing, Communications or Business Management graduate with minimum two years relevant experience working in a similar position and previous work experience with inventory management. Should be competent in the use of Microsoft Office with emphasis on Word and Excel. To succeed in the role, you must have an excellent communication and negotiation skills. If you have an eye for detail and are energetic and passionate about your work, then this is the role for you.

Send resumés to:
Netnet Bayot – Admin / HR Officer
Fax: (02) 9128566 or email: netnet.bayot@ph.lafarge.com

www.boral.com.au

We are one of the leading HMO's in the country and we are urgently looking for competent candidates for our existing vacancies.

SALES AND ADMIN OFFICER

- The applicant must be graduate of Legal Management, Bachelor of Laws or a graduate of a 4-year course with Law units;
- With experience in an HMO or insurance industry;
- Possess adequate knowledge on contracts administration and legal matters involving contracts and obligations;
- Possess working knowledge of various forms of contracts;
- Demonstrate responsibility and urgency toward goal accomplishment;
- Must be detail-oriented, systematic, and organized;
- With very good inter-personal and communication skills;
- Must be well-versed in MS applications;
- Can work in a fast-paced work environment.

CLINIC SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, must be a registered nurse;
- With at least 2 years work experience in the same capacity and must be adept in administrative functions in a clinical setting;
- Must have excellent communication skills, organized and systematic;
- Applicant must be willing to be assigned in Cavite.

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resume, 2x2 recent colored photo and transcript of records to the Human Resources Department, **MEDICard** PHILIPPINES, INC., 8/F The World Centre, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. You may also email your applications to:fnbongalon@medicardphils.com.

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NATIONAL SALES MANAGER	PRODUCT MANAGER	MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Qualifications:	Qualifications:	Qualifications:
• M/F less than 40 yrs. old • Pharmacy / Management/ Science graduate • Experience 15 yrs. or more, covering whole of Phils. • Effective Communication Skills • Result Oriented, Target Driven and Team Builder • Aggressive and goal oriented	• Management / Pharmacy graduate • Young and dynamic about 8 to 10 yrs. of "hands-on" experience and brand building • The position reports to the National Sales Manager	• 1 to 2 yrs. of experience • Pharmacy / Science / Management graduate • Effective Communication Skills • Aggressive and goal oriented • Customer Driven

Interested applicants should hand carry / post their resume with 2x2 pictures and other credentials before April 28, 2006

Brown & Burk Philippines Inc: 302-B RCI Bldg., 105 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City ☎ Tel. No.: 840-0178 / 840-0179
E-mail Add: brown&burk@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

INTERNATIONAL AUDITOR

A multi-national company is looking for an International Auditor with a demonstrated record of outstanding audit work. We are a wholesale/retail distributor of consumer durables and operate a network of retail stores and dealers in Asia.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree in Accounting with either CPA, CA or CIA qualification
- At least 5 years experience in Public Accounting, Internal Audit or Corporate Accounting work.
- Proficient in the use of computers, CISA qualification not required but would be an advantage
- Willing to travel at least 75% internationally

Interested applicants may send in their resumés with photos to: **ladrecruitment@yahoo.com**

FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
Fostering Partnerships for the Environment

The Foundation for the Philippine Environment, an NGO National Environmental Fund, is looking for qualified staff for the position of

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Position Summary:

The person would be responsible for planning, leading, organizing and directing all functions and personnel involved in human resources management, including recruitment and selection, training, performance management compensation and benefits management, as well as office administration, involving procurement, asset management and control, and formulation and implementation of general office policies and procedures.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

1. With masteral degree or units in human resources management psychology, social sciences, industrial relations or management
2. With at least ten years progressive experience in HRM and office administration function and is currently occupying a senior supervisory or management position.

Please mail your application letter, bio-data, diploma and transcript of records, xerox copy of your SSS ID and Tax Identification Number with latest 2X2 colored photograph, to:

The HRDA UNIT
FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
77 Matahimik Street, Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City
You can also send your application at fpemain@fpe.ph

Applications must be received not later than 03 May 2006
Previous applicants need not apply.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.
No telephone inquiry will be entertained.

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Exciting Opportunities for IT Professionals

Misys Banking Systems supplies over 1,200 customers in over 120 countries, among them 49 of the world's top 50 banks, with software and solutions for retail banking, wholesale banking, treasury and capital markets and risk management. It has 2,600 people around the world, over 70% of whom are outside of the UK, and sales, implementation and customer support teams in over 28 countries.

Misys Banking Systems is part of Misys plc. (FTSE: MSY), one of the world's largest and longest-established providers. Founded in 1979, Misys is a top five software provider in both the US healthcare and global banking software markets, turning over in excess of US$1b. For more information, visit www.misys.com

Currently, we are looking to recruit top caliber professionals to fill the following positions

Misys Midas Plus Analyst/Programmer (Java or RPG)
Configuration MGMT Analyst/Programmer (RPG)
FUNDED DEV (SR) Analyst/Programmer (Java or RPG)
E-BANKING (SR) Analyst/Programmer (J2EE)
EBA Analyst/Programmer (Visual Basic)
EBS Analyst/Programmer (RPG)
Funded Dev Team Lead (RPG)
Misys Midas Plus Technical Lead (Java or RPG)
e-Banking Technical Lead (Java)
Misys Midas Plus Technical Designer (Java)
Misys Midas Plus Technical Architect (Java)
Business Analyst (Midas/TI)
System Tester
I.T. Applications Analyst
Test Lead
Support Consultant (Helpdesk Analyst)
Application Development Systems Analyst
Quality Assurance Tester (Misys Midas or Misys Trade Innovation)
Misys Equation Product Support Systems Analyst
Misys Equation Product Support Systems Administrator
New Business Sales Manager

Please send in your applications with position code indicated and attach a copy of your resume to careers_ph@misys.com

To find out more, visit our careers section at www.misysbanking.com/Careers/Situations_Vacant_by_Country/CareerCountries_Phillipines site.

At Misys, we are constantly looking for people with the skills, experience and attitude to enable us to fulfill our dream: to be admired for making the things that really matter, work better.

MISYS

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PRESENT VALUE Interactive Financial Training is an innovative leader in the presentation of E-Learning Solutions for Investment banks, Funds and Insurance Companies. For our office in Cebu we are looking for high calibrated:

Financial Analysts

PRESENT VALUE
INTERACTIVE FINANCIAL TRAINING

Range of Activities:

- Analysing international research materials
- Conduct web-based research
- Formulating texts
- Drafting graphs and describe animations

The ideal candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- PhD/MBA (or equivalent) degree in Banking & Finance and/or Business Economics & Management.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- MS Word, Excel
- Good mathematical skills.
- Ability of work independently as well being a team player.

We offer an attractive salary, possibility to work abroad, travel opportunities. PRESENT VALUE is an employer of equal chances. Application should be made by sending C.V. to our e-mail address:

mail@present-value-training.com

TouchStar Software

TouchStar Software Corporation, a privately held software developer of software based phone systems is currently hiring in our Manila office.

We are looking for individuals that have great communication skills, strong work ethics, and are passionate about helping customers. If you are looking for a career and not another Job then this is the company for you!

We offer competitive salaries (based on experience and abilities) as well as allowances and other benefits commencing with experience and qualifications.

Technical Support Engineers

Responsible for helping Customers worldwide with software, networking, and other IT related issues.

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering is required
- ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS majors are preferred; or strong IT experience.
- 1 – 3 years of call center or call center IT experience is preferred
- Willing to work the night shifts or a variable shift based on the customers needs
- Must be able to listen to a customers concerns and complaints then turn them into opportunities to assist and resolve the issues at hand. Issues very from database questions, to network questions and general "how to" questions.
- **Great English communication skills are a must.** Most calls and correspondence will come from Touchstar customers in the US and Europe

Please send your resumes to **Jobs.PH@touchstarsoftware.com** to set up your interview today! Pease include employment references.

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4th F, 1694 Evangelista St., Bangkal, Makati City
DL: (02)750-1713 ; 889-0259 Telefax: (02)844-7477
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**Accenture Recruitment Center, G/F, Libran House,
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8am to 6pm

We are in need of fresh graduates of IT, Engineering, Business, Finance, Liberal Arts or Social Sciences courses for immediate career opportunities in IT and Business Process Outsourcing. If you want to develop deep specialized skills by working on some of the largest and most challenging projects around, then join Accenture Jobfest. Bring your resumé, transcript of records or true copy of grades and 3 ID photos, and start your career right with Accenture. For directions to the venue, text ACCENTURE<space>RECCNTR to 2327 for Globe or 3911 for Smart subscribers.

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We welcome all fresh graduates of 2005 and 2006. Start your career with us. We are looking for fresh talents to help us grow Accenture Finance Solutions and Health and Life Sciences business.

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Email your resume to manila.recmgr@accenture.com, quoting the reference code, and be one of our frontrunners today. And if you want to be notified of Accenture BPO job openings through your mobile phone, text ACCENTURE BPOJOBS to 2327 for Globe and 3911 for Smart.

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• Communication • English • Filipino •
• Physical Education •
With MA degree; with at least one year of teaching experience

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With MA degree in History; with at least three years of teaching experience; of good moral character

• Chemistry/ Physics •
With MS degree in Chemistry or Physics; with at least one year of teaching experience

• Mathematics •
With MA/MS degree in Mathematics; with at least one year of teaching experience

• Hotel and Restaurant Management •
• Tourism Management •
Must be a degree holder of MSHRM, MS Foodservice Administration, MS Tourism Management, MBA major in HRM; with at least one year of teaching experience in tertiary level; with at least two years of hospitality experience in related businesses; with pleasing personality

(To qualify as special **Guest Lecturer**: without master's degree; with at least ten years of hospitality experience)

Accounting Clerk

Must be a degree holder of BS Accountancy, Management Accounting or related courses; must be computer literate; with high sense of responsibility and can work with minimum supervision; not more than 30 years old; with pleasing personality

Apply personally at the Human Resource Management Office -
Faculty Services, Gregoria Montoya Hall (GMH 110) of
De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Cavite 4115 Philippines
Please bring the necessary documents *(e.g. resume, diploma)*
For further inquiries call (046) 416-4531 • (02) 844-7832 • local 3024
http://www.dasma.dlsu.edu.ph

URBAN&CO

We are currently looking for creative, flexible, hard-working and results-oriented individuals to be part of our dynamic team. Head Office (Makati) positions:

ACCOUNTANT: College graduate with degree in Finance/Accountancy or equivalent. CPA preferable. Must have experience in general accounting, cash flow management, payroll management and financial statement preparation. Must be detail oriented and team player.

OPERATION OFFICER: College graduate. Must have retail store and operational experience, preferably in a supervisory capacity. Must have strong leadership qualities and be a team player. Must be detail oriented and be a team player.

INVENTORY OFFICER: College graduate. Must have retail experience managing inventory. Knowledgeable with inventory/POS computer systems. Possesses excellent analytical skills. Must be detail oriented and be a team player.

ADMINISTRATIVE/RETAIL ASSISTANT: College graduate. Female, 22-29 years old. Must be flexible and a team player.

Please send resumé w/ picture, transcript of records & proof of employment to:

Unit 205 Liberty Plaza, 102 HV de la Costa St., Salcedo Village,
Makati City, or email to: **info@urbanwearinc.com**

MARKSTEEL Construction Corp.

ENGINEER • CONTRACTORS • FABRICATORS • ELECTRO-MECHANICAL

Marksteel Const. Corp. is in need of the following

(5) Operations Engineer/Civil Engineer

Qualifications:
- Male
- Graduate of BS Civil Engineering with or without license
- With knowledge in civil and structural operations
- Knowledge in AutoCAD or STAAD would be an advantage
- At least 1 year experience in civil and or steel structures

(5) Structural Detailer/Senior CAD Operator

Qualifications:
- Male/Female
- Graduate of BSA/BS Civil Engineering or equivalent
- In depth knowledge in AutoCAD and or STAAD
- At least 2 years experience in designing
- Excellent know-how in detailing and designing especially in steel structures
- Can work under pressure

Please bring your comprehensive resume' and attachments to:

Marksteel Construction Corporation
617 Komprey St. Brgy. Ramon Cruz,
Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite
tel nos. (046)9720372/ (046)8900770/ (02)5208738
or email us at : marksteel_abc@yahoo.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

Sales Engineer / Assistant

Preferably:
- Male
- Mechanical Engineer
- Experienced in Sales of Ind'l Refrigeration equipment and services

Good salary & commission / transport package
Contact Liza Tel. No. 821 5515 / 821 5525

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS

POSITION: **ATTORNEY IV**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: MINDANAO FIELD OFFICE
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-ATY4-8-2002
SALARY GRADE: 23
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: BACHELOR'S DEGREE
EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: 8 HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY: RA 1080 (BAR)

POSITION: **ATTORNEY III**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: HEARING DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-ATY3-6-2002
SALARY GRADE: 21
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: BACHELOR OF LAWS
EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: 4 HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY: RA 1080 (BAR)

POSITION: **LEGAL OFFICER IV**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: LEGAL COUNSELLING DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-LEGO4-23-2002
SALARY GRADE: 22
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: BACHELOR OF LAWS
EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: 4 HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY: RA 1080 (BAR)

POSITION: **LEGAL OFFICER III (2 vacancies)**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: CONTRACTS DIVISION, LEGAL COUNSELLING DIVISION
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-LEGO3-24, 23-2002
SALARY GRADE: 20
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: BACHELOR OF LAWS
EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: 4 HOURS OF RELEVANT TRAINING
ELIGIBILITY: RA 1080 (BAR)

All application letters and comprehensive resumés with passport size picture should be submitted to the Human Resource Management Division, Administrative Service, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. For further inquiries, please call 840-1401 to 21 locs. 354/217 or through e-mail c/o ebalaoing@doe.gov.ph not later than 08 May 2006.

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC., a non-government organization that recruits, educates and coordinates with a broad base of volunteers in Metro Manila, is in need of an

INFORMATION MANAGER

REQUIREMENTS
- M/F, GRADUATE OF ANY IT-RELATED COURSE;
- Must have 3-5 years working experience in hardware and software maintenance and networking (LAN configuration, Database Administration);
- Knowledge of system applications and analysis, including MS Access and other appropriate database software;
- Resourceful and able to consolidate information from multiple sources;
- With strong interpersonal skills and able to work in a multi-sectoral environment;
- Able to work with minimum supervision.

Responsibilities

A. **General HOM Information Management**
1. Develop and manage a database of HOM's partner NGOs, donors and other affiliates;

B. **Volunteer Management**
2. Develop and manage a database of volunteer information for orientation attendees, first-time and regular volunteers;
3. Facilitate the collation and encoding of volunteer data including attendance, service hours rendered, frequency of volunteering
4. Generate detailed reports related to these data (per volunteer, per project, etc.)
5. Maintain regular communications with volunteers (monthly calendars, birthdays, special announcements, text blasts, etc.)
6. Develop a feedback management system (volunteer feedback, Sherpas, partner organizations /stakeholder feedback)

Gross salary is between P260,000-P325,000 per annum. Interested applicants may send their resumés on or before April 30, 2006 to:

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.
Unit 10 Lower Penthouse
Medical Plaza Makati Bldg.
Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts.
Legaspi Vill., Makati City

Or email us at handsonmanila@gmail.com

---

galileo SURGICENTER

A modern, computerized Eye Center seeks to hire qualified persons for the following positions:

☐ ***OPTOMETRIST*** - a college graduate in Optometry, preferably board-certified, willing to apply academic training in a clinical setting and to learn practical skills in the diagnosis and surgery of eye diseases.

☐ ***PHARMACIST*** - a board-certified Pharmacist with a valid PRC license willing to work regular office hours from Monday to Saturday dispensing eye medications, interacting with patients, and controlling medical inventory.

☐ ***ACCOUNTANT*** - a graduate of an accountancy course willing to do book keeping, inventory control, sales monitoring and other accounting work using a computerized system, with no experience required.

☐ ***MARKETING ASSISTANT*** - a graduate of a business course with a major in Marketing willing to do field work and research in Medical Tourism

Please send biodata with photo and references personally to Galileo SurgiCenter, G/F Belson House, 271 EDSA corner Connecticut Street, Mandaluyong City or e-mail to minerva@mydestiny.net. For further inquiries, please call 721-7135/721-6412.

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WORTHY OF CONFIDENCE

We are domestic company engaged in Pharmaceuticals and as part of our expansion program we are looking for:

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

who will handle our imported Branded products from Europe and USA

Qualifications:
- Male or female (18-25 years old)
- Graduate of any related course
- Proficiency in oral and written communication
- Preferably with sales experience but not necessary
- Hardworking, self-motivated and willing to travel
- Good Moral Character

ACCOUNTANT/AUDIT STAFF

Qualifications:
- Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy or Business Administration major in Accounting, preferably CPA
- Highly analytical in all phases of financial reporting
- Computer literate
- With at least 2 years experience as an Accountant or Auditing Assistant
- Honest and hardworking

Due to the urgency of our requirement qualified applicants were advised to handcarry their resumé at:

2nd Floor A&M Building
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
(near St. Peter Parish Church)

Previous Applicants Need Not Apply.

TEACHERS

Employers from the

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are coming to interview teachers in

May 2006

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- Mathematics
- Physical Education (PE)
- Library Science

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- Excellent English Language skills
- Baccalaureate Degree – BS or AB
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience

Submit the ff. documents:
- Resume with 2x2 picture.
- Copy of Official Transcript of Records
- PRC certification.

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Male/Female, 23 to 30 yrs. old, graduate of any course; fresh graduates are welcome; fluent in oral and written English; computer literate; very organized; with good people relations; can drive.

CADD OPERATOR / PROJECT COORDINATOR

Graduate of Architecture or Drafting Technology, male, 21 – 30 years old; at least 2 years experience in a design or architectural firm; preferably has exposure to the foodservice & supermarket industry; can communicate well in English; personable: and detail – oriented.

PLANNER

Female, 21 to 28 yrs. old, graduate of Industrial Engineering; fresh graduates are welcome; with good oral and written English skills; computer literate; very organized; detail-oriented; keeps cool under pressure.

Interested applicants should apply personally with their resume, credentials, certificate of employment and recent 2x2 photo at

9705 HKR Building, Kamagong St., San Antonio Village,
Makati City or email at **mfkho@hkr.com.ph** or
frpenaflorida@hkr.com.ph.

For more inquiries, please call Maricel Kho or Fatima Peñaflorida at telephone nos.897-1569.

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alegre BEACH RESORT

A renowned 5-star triple-A resort in Cebu with some 40 rooms, one main restaurant and bar as well as a Beach BBQ and bar, meeting facilities, dive station, extensive water sport facilities, three pools and other sports facilities is presently looking for a:

GUEST SERVICES MANAGER

- Candidate must have had at least 3 years experience in a similar position in a five star hotel or resort.
- Must have full knowledge on the handling of Front Office operations.
- Must have a pleasant personality and must speak good English, knowledge of other languages is an advantage.
- Must be able to train staff in handling of guests
- A good team player and motivator and should have good and strong leadership traits
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Creative in organizing guest and children's activities
- Have an outgoing, extrovert personality

Position is resort based and accommodation is provided for the chosen individual.

Interested parties may send resume to:
The Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 1094, Cebu City 6000, Philippines
or e-mail your application with your resume to:
hrd@alegrebeachresort.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TEACHERS (HS & GS)

Part-time HS VOLLEYBALL COACH
- BEEd. specialization in: P.E., Mathematics, Science, English, Pre-School
- BSE major in: CLVE, Math., PEHM, Social Studies, Filipino, Computer
- Dedicated, Innovative, single (male or female), not more than 30 years old
- Good English communication skills
- LET Passer

LIBRARY STAFF

- BSE Library Science Major or with units in Library Science
- Male/Female; Single/Married; 22-30 years old

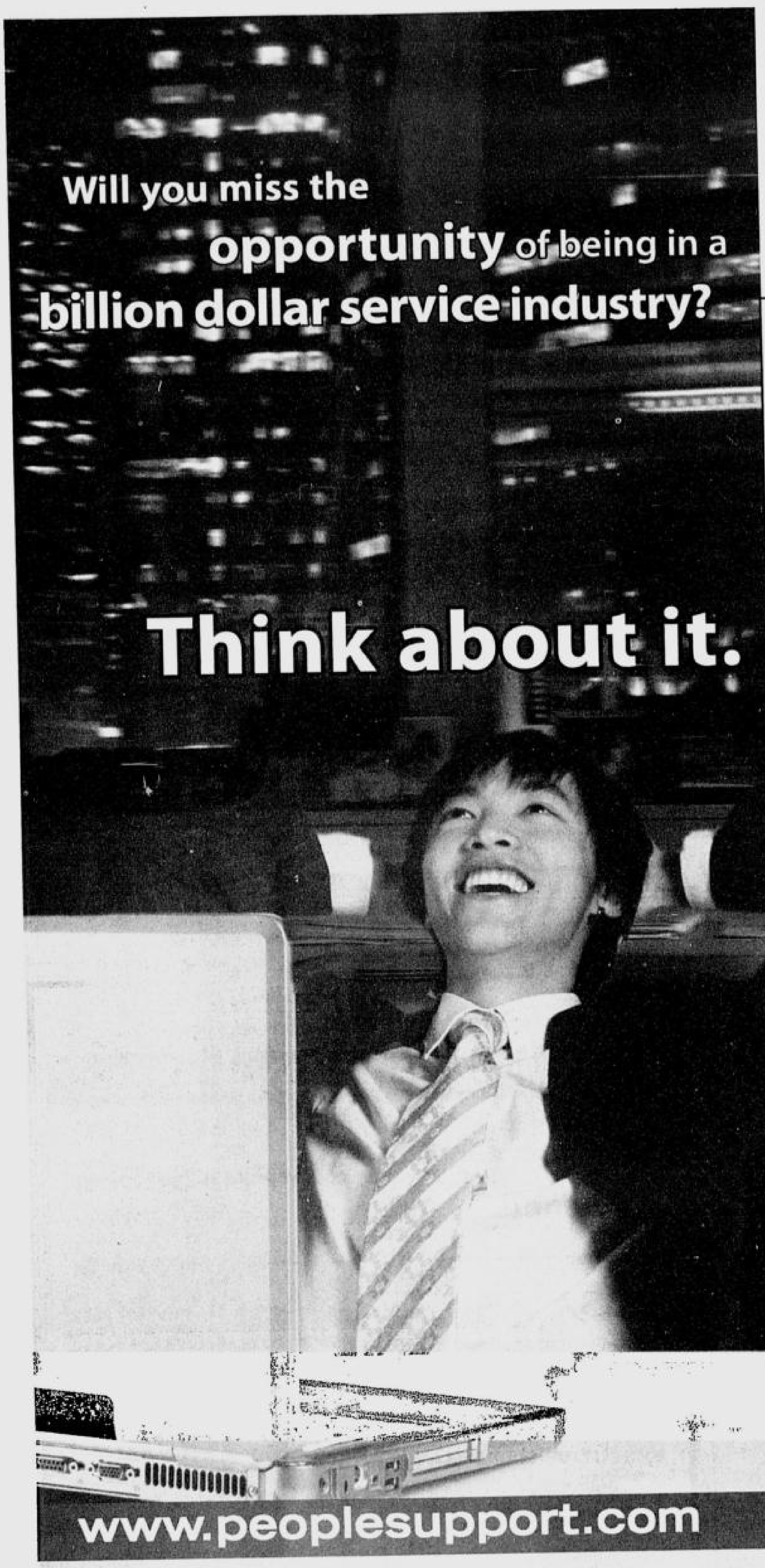
COMPUTER TECHNICIAN INSTRUCTOR

- Graduate of: B.S. Computer Engineering; B.S. Industrial Education; or Two-year Computer Technology course
- Preferably with experience and/or worked as a Computer Technician or with related experience
- Passed the TESDA Trade Test for Computer Technician (an advantage)
- Male/Female; Single/Married: 22-30 years old

ACCOUNTANT

- CPA; Must have at least three (3) years of experience as Accountant
- Male/Female, Single, not more than 30 years old

APPLY PERSONALLY:
NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA, Madre Ignacia Ave., Grace Park, 1400 Caloocan City
Tel #366-6334 loca 111 (HS) and 361-7310 loc. 125 (GS), 361-7435
BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio-Data, Handwritten Application Letter, SSS#, TIN, ID Picture (1"x1")



Leadership Opportunities for
Team Supervisors!

At least one year supervisory experience • Excellent English communication skills • Technology savvy • Good coaching and people management skills • Willing to work on shifting schedules

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Recruitment Manager
Recruitment Officers (Manila & Davao)

FINANCE
Senior Accounting Officer
Data Analyst
Payroll Manager

SERVICE DELIVERY
Workforce Management
Forcedesk Manager
Forcedesk Supervisors
Realtime Analysts
Workforce Analysts
Business Analyst

SALES
Business Development Manager
Client Services Manager

LEGAL
Senior Attorney
Legal Assistant

TRAINING
Training Manager, Leadership Development
University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainers (Manila & Cebu)
Transcription Trainer
Travel Trainer
Real Estate Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila & Cebu)
Course Developer

Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Sr. Database Analyst (MS SQL)
Software Development Manager
Software Developer (C#, ASP.net, VB.net)
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e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222

Davao City
A-301 Plaza de Luisa,
140 Ramon Magsaysay Ave.
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (82) 227-9301

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC)
NGO Sector Efficiency and Accountability to Strengthen Service Delivery to the Poor
(Grant TF 056159)

The Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) has applied for a grant fund from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) through the World Bank towards the cost of the Project entitled "NGO Sector Efficiency and Accountability to Strengthen Service Delivery to the Poor" and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the grant to payments under the contract for consulting services.

The project aims to enhance the accountability and efficiency of NGOs in delivering basic services especially to regions with high poverty incidence. The project will therefore look into NGOs' conformity with performance standards; systems of sanctions and rewards as well as installation of feedback/grievance mechanisms, and systems to enhance NGO accountability and efficiency. The services of the consultant will include (a) review of various existing sanctions and rewards as well as feedback/grievance mechanisms on NGO/CBO performance; (b) organizing and facilitating the conduct of regional assemblies/workshops to consolidate comments/suggestions; and (c) managing the publication of the final guidelines on systems and mechanisms.

The Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) now invites eligible consultants (an NGO, academic institution or firm) to indicate their interest in providing the services as Social Accountability Specialist. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, curriculum vitae, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers dated May 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the PCNC Office at the address below from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday thru Friday, at tel. nos. (02) 7152756 / 7159594. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below not later than 3:00 PM, May 15, 2006.

FELY I. SOLEDAD
Executive Director
PCNC, 6/F, SCC Bldg.
CFA Compd., 4427, Interior Old Sta. Mesa Rd.
Manila

N.B. PCNC is also accepting applications for the following positions: (Applications for the positions listed below may be sent by e-mail (pcncert@mozcom.com) or fax (no. 715-2783).
1. Training Coordinator / Module Development Specialist
2. Training Assistant / Documentor
3. IT / Database / Webpage Specialist
4. Forum / Workshop Facilitator
5. Technical Assistant / Documentor

FELY I. SOLEDAD, PCNC Executive Director

POSITION : **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**
A2Z Project/The Philippines

The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and implement micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in The Philippines will work with national and local government institutions, partner NGOs, private sector and research institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs. Technical intervention areas include vitamin A coverage, anemia reduction, food fortification, and mainstreaming micronutrients. The Manila-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist will work with the A2Z Resident Advisor to provide technical management, with the Department of Health, A2Z/HQ, national institutions, LGUs, public and private sector, and will be responsible for M&E technical oversight, implementation.

Required :. Master's degree in epidemiology, nutrition, public health, demography, statistics or related field; minimum three years experience in international development or health programs, including practical experience in M&E; Stata, SAS, EpiInfo, or SPSS.

Preferred : Knowledge/experience with epidemiology and public health/nutrition data analysis. Submit cover letter and resumé by **May 1, 2006** to **Academy for Educational Development**, 8/Flr. Ramon Magsaysay Center, Roxas Boulevard, Malate 1004, Metro Manila, Attention: Office Manager; email: **a2z-philippines@aed.org**. No phone calls.

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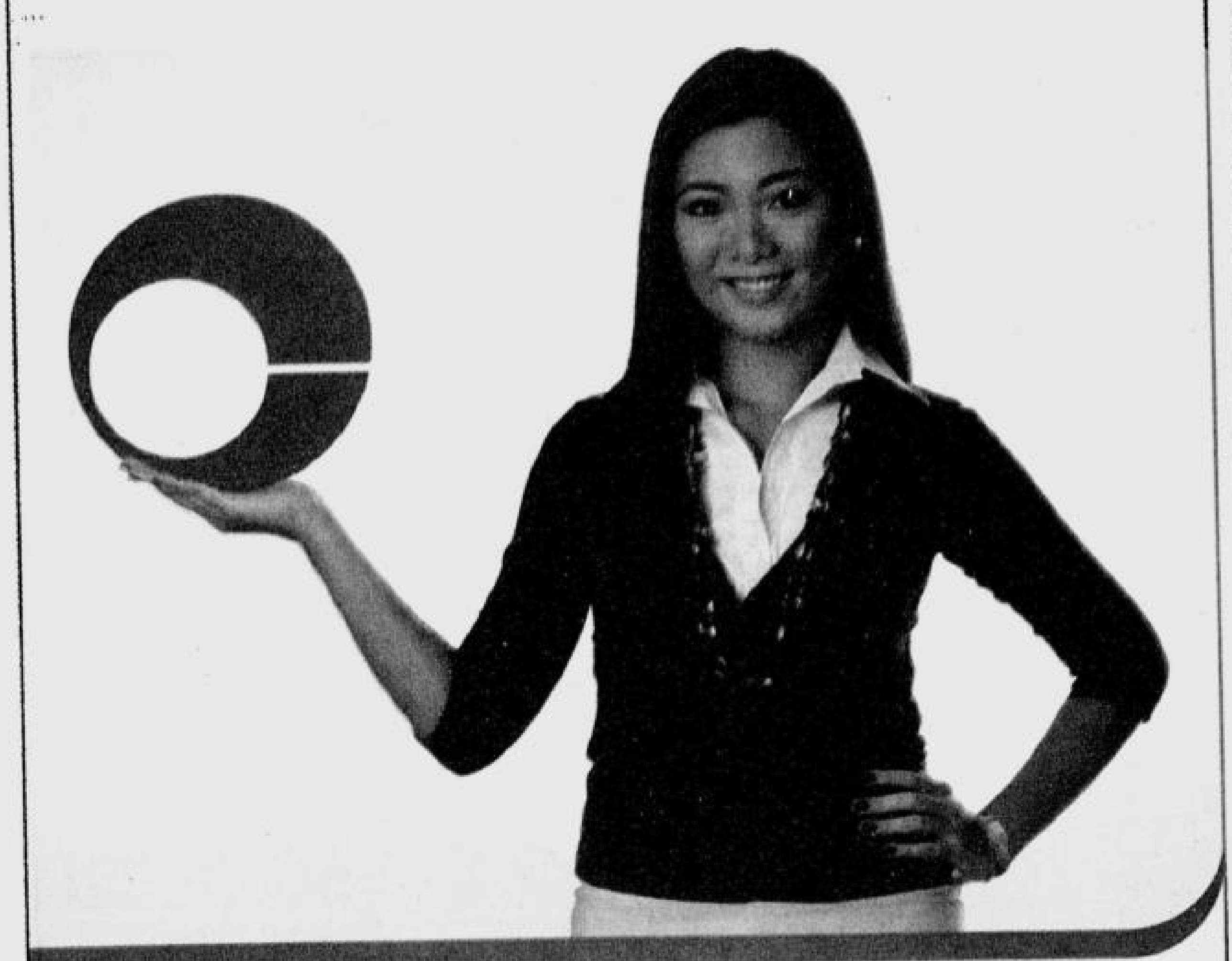

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Does resting after graduation give a bad image?

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM A FRESH GRADUATE from a prestigious university. After my graduation, I opted to have a long rest so that I would be able to do the things I have always wanted to do. I was truly afraid that I might not be able to enjoy myself once I start working. Also, I was confused on what I really want to do. In fact, I felt the course that I have just taken was not the one I really would love to engage in forever. But anyway I do like it. But I just wanted to do more soul-searching during my long vacation.

Four months have passed after my graduation and now I am starting to search for work. The thing is I don't really have the eagerness to work because I still do not know what type of career I want to pursue. My only option is to get into a job that does not require a specific course or the type of job that is related to my course.

I am also still afraid to step into the real world. But I know I want to grow as a person and earn some money for my future. I am beginning to feel the pressure of finding a job since most of my batch mates have probably gotten a job and a lot of people will also be graduating this March. The competition will truly get stiffer. And I am tired of answering, "I am still resting" to people's questions regarding my work status.

I already applied to different companies through online applications and booths from job fairs. All I got was one interview in one company and one testing session in another. I did not get into the first company that interviewed me. Maybe they realized I really would not like to work for their company on a long-term basis. I know I can't have my dream job for my first job but how can I convince an employer that I can take on the job even if they think I don't like it? I know I cannot lie in interviews.

Also may I ask if resting for a long time after graduation gives a bad impression on employers about me? I am starting to regret about the long rest, since I now realize it is hard to get a job. I should have worked hard as early as possible to have many options. But I wanted to recharge my mind and energy after studying for a very long time so that I could give my all when I start working.

What should I do? I am considering taking up a master's so that I could pursue the type of career I really want. However, I know I have to work because I would want to pay for my own tuition this time. My parents have spent so much already for my education. This time I should try to support myself. My mind is really in chaos right now. But one thing is certain and that is I just want to have a happy life and family in the future. I am not dreaming to be the best employee, just a good one. I just want to be happy in my future career and to be surrounded by wonderful people at work. I hope you could give me some advice. Thanks a lot for your time.

Bum in Distress

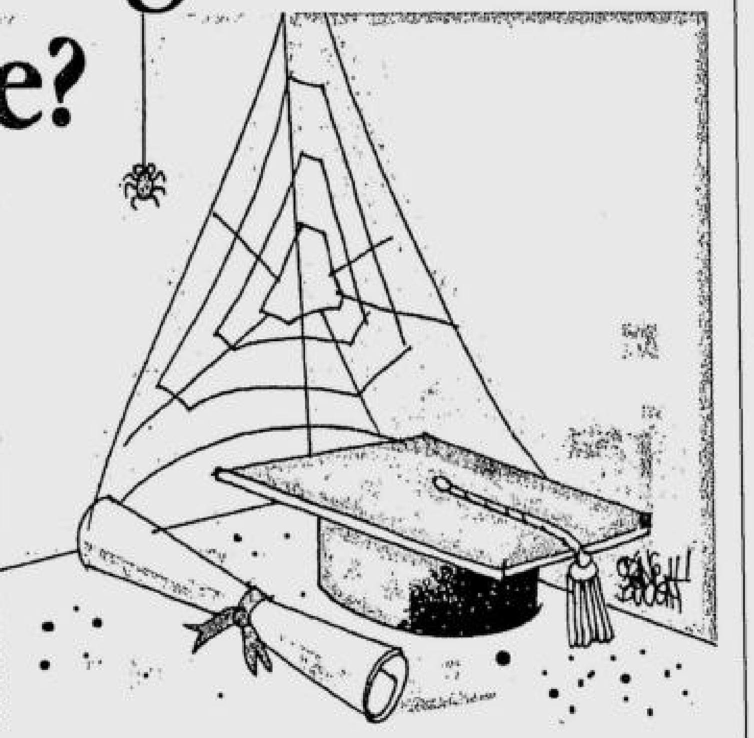

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

You feel guilty having taken a four-month vacation after graduation. You are now regretting your earlier decision. You are also wondering about the college course you just completed. My advice is for you to forget the past. The past is gone and you cannot turn back the hands of the clock. What is important is to learn from your experience. The real enemy in a long vacation is what we call inertia. One gets used to the idle and carefree life. Now you have to shift your mindset and get ready for assuming responsibility. As for the college degree, be grateful you completed one. Ask yourself, how can I make this particular credential work for me?

What is important, I suggest, you undergo career coaching. A career coach through a series of sessions can help you discover yourself and provide clarity to all your confusion.

Not knowing what career you want is to gain direction. What is your vision for yourself? What interests you? You need to develop conviction on what career you want to pursue. You have to reflect on the key things that will sustain your interest and commitment you want to pursue is like traveling without a destination. This is what limits your job-hunting efforts. How can you find the right job when you have not defined what is your ideal job? I think the hour for day dreaming is over. You have to want and will to work. While the desire to pursue a master's degree is laudable, this may give you another crutch or excuse for not working. First things first, get a job. As you said, it may not be an ideal job but you have to begin to gain experience and exposure and truly understand what it takes to succeed in work. After one or two years at work, you will be in a better position to further higher studies.

In our company, we provide career coaching. Give us a call and I can refer you to a good consultant. All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback tto advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax 892-2902. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895/96/98.)*

Divine Mercy

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

SOME PRIESTS SHARED THAT ONE OF THE MOST TIRING tasks they had during the Holy Week was hearing confessions for several hours in a day. However, while listening to all kinds of sins including those work related was so energy-draining, they experienced the consoling thought and feeling that they were able to grant God's forgiveness (mercy and love) to the penitents. Both the priests and the sinful but believing souls would feel some kind of a renewed spirit in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation which Jesus, the Savior, had instituted in His Church as referred to in today's gospel verse focus.

Something similar happens in the world of work where everyone must have sinned—in one way or another committed some faults or blunder in one's assigned task or responsibility. There are offenders who willingly confess their offenses, there are those who try to hide and cover up their misdeeds, while others who are caught either voluntarily admit their sin or are forced to do so.

However, those who consider their jobs as merely a means of their livelihood will certainly find it almost impossible to readily confess their job failures for fear of losing their source of income. For the company and the business which have profit and more profit as the main goal, mercy and forgiveness for someone who culpably incurs damage or heavy loss is not easily shown and given. But when everyone accepts the Spirit of Christ, and considers efficiency, productivity, profit and gain in this Spirit, then a greater sense of satisfaction springing from the experience of the Divine Mercy will be enjoyed by all in the workplace. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

'Sukang Iloko'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN THE WORKPLACE, FORGIVING AND BEING FORGIVEN may not require the services of a priest-confessor at all. Under work pressure and while interacting with persons of varying persuasions and temperament, it's not uncommon to make mistakes and ask or grant forgiveness "seventy-times-seven" each day.

To have to ask forgiveness may be humbling but there is no other way for one to have genuine peace than to admit that one has been wrong and then to beg pardon to right that wrong. On the other hand, a wonderful sense of peace settles upon you when you forgive coworkers who have wronged you. Forgiving others also assures you of being forgiven in case you offend others, or, at least, gives you interior calm in case others won't forgive you.

Is there someone in your workplace who cannot smile? Chances are that person is the most miserable one around. I once had a coworker like that, and we nicknamed him "Sukang Iloko" (Ilocos vinegar) for being so sour-faced. If you try to look deeper into that person's background—as we did with "Sukang Iloko"—you'll probably find out that at the root of his or her inability to smile is the lack of forgiveness, both given and asked. "Sukang Iloko" could not ask for forgiveness even for the most obvious of his errors because in his mind he was always right; and he could not grant forgiveness as well because he believed that whatever suffering he caused in others was well-deserved. Little did he know that by being so proud and unforgiving he was carrying the weight of unpardoned offenses—both his and others'—robbing him of the ability to smile. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

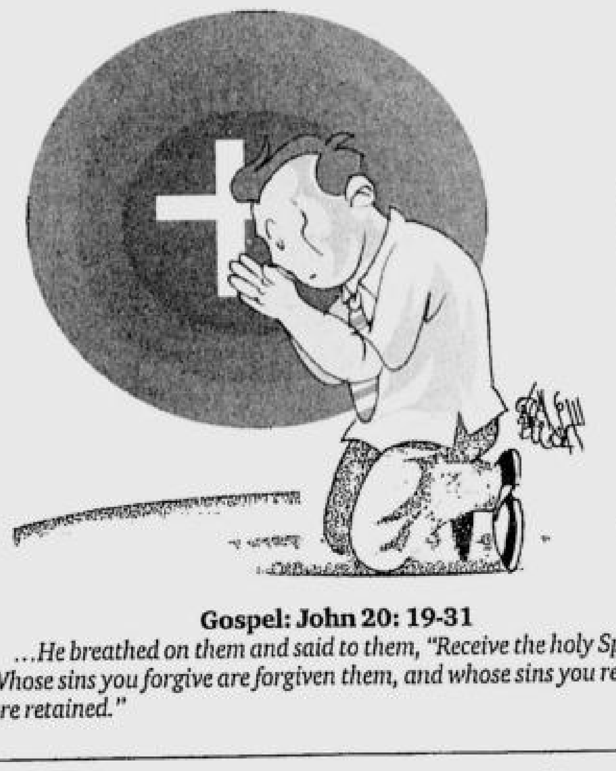

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

...He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Retired English teacher wants to work in call center

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

(Continued from April 9, 2006)

THE STANDARD RECRUITMENT process usually goes like this: (1) An interested applicant sends a resume; (2) The applicant is called for an initial interview; (3) If he/ she passes the first interview, the applicant is called for a second interview; and (4) If he/ she passes this second interview, the applicant is called for a third interview, and so on until all the concerned people that have a say in the hiring have interviewed the applicant.

Multiple interviews

It is estimated that an advertisement for a customer service representative (CSR) or telemarketer position brings in about 1,000 resumes or even more. From this number, it is estimated that about 100 are usually called for the first interview out of which 10 are called for the second interview. From this pared down number of candidates, about four are called for the third interview. Finally, only one or two make it to the contract signing stage.

The series of interviews enable the applicant to experience what the work is really like. In the first interview, applicants are interviewed in groups. Each one is made to read one page of tongue-twister words and is evaluated on their pronunciation and diction. An IQ test is given and the cut-off is usually an above average rating.

In the second interview, practical exams such as typing proficiency and computer language skills are given. Phone simulation tests an applicant's ability to memorize and retain information, such as name and personal data of the customer and the features and benefits of product or service to be sold, to evaluate their selling skills.

In the third and succeeding interviews, the successful applicant is evaluated for their ability to learn fast, to think on their feet, to give quick and accurate response to the customer's need for information and to respond appropriately to complaints. Patience, courtesy, and, possibly, a sense of humor are also some traits that are required by the job. An applicant for a telemarketer position may also be made to sell a product or service for which no information is given to them at all.

An angry or irate customer frustrated about a product or service, and likely to use insulting and foul language, is a constant challenge to a CSR. How would you, an educator, react to such language? Applicants are evaluated for their emotional maturity, patience, courtesy and customer orientation. They are also tested on their creativity and persistence and courtesy in handling different kinds and levels of customer dissatisfaction and frustration.

Rigorous training

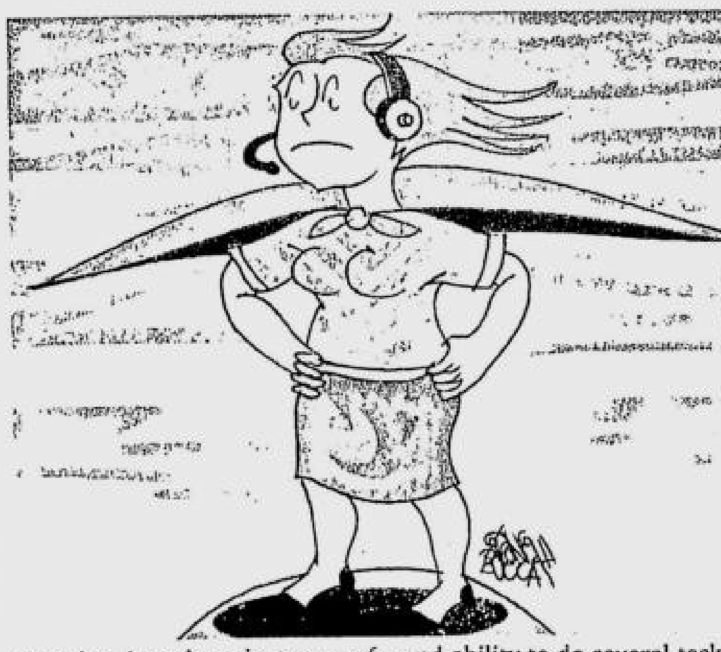

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Once hired, the CSR or telemarketer goes through rigorous training usually for four to five weeks on how to speak like a native American in terms of diction, pronunciation and accentuation and how to listen attentively. They are also oriented on American culture and geography, the product or service, the company selling the product or offering the service, and ways to handle different kinds of irate customers with varying levels of agitation. In addition, telemarketers are given training in selling skills: how to do a sales pitch and close a sale within a three-minute time frame.

Every call the agent makes is recorded and evaluated by a group known as quality assurance who gives feedback to the agent and to the latter's team leader on the agent's delivery and clarity of the message sent and on their effectiveness, i.e., whether the agent's response has achieved its purpose.

The agent must be adept at multi-tasking i.e., the readiness and ability to do several tasks at the same time such as, speaking, listening, analyzing and typing. Usually, there are at least three computer software programs being simultaneously used by an agent while talking to a customer.

Culture shock

Be prepared for a culture shock. It's not enough that handling courteously irate customers is a CSR's daily fare. You will also have to contend with fellow CSRs who, in rage over the foul language received from a number of irate customers, will themselves "let off steam" by cursing and using vile language within your hearing. Also, since there is no dress code, CSRs or telemarketers, especially on graveyard shift can wear "unusual" attire for work: shorts, slippers, even pajamas, etc.

The following traits are a "must" for CSRs or telemarketers: high frustration tolerance, being "thick skinned", i.e., ability not to take "cuss" words personally, ability to keep one's negative emotions in check; high energy level, mental alertness, high sense of urgency, precision and attention to details. They are also expected to have a high achievement drive which refers to one's desire to see problems as challenges and as an opportunity to know the real needs of the customer and to keep improving one's knowledge and skills.

A five-day work week is observed but days off do not necessarily mean a Saturday and a Sunday. The schedule given to an agent, and which is often non-negotiable, will indicate their days off. Work schedules may include working on holidays such as Christmas, New Year and Holy Week, which are every dear to a Filipino's heart.

I suggest that you personally bring your resume to the recruitment office of some call centers which advertise vacancies and see the work place for yourself, the work stations, the work attire of the CRSs or telemarketers, and observe their behaviors and hear them talk just to keep themselves awake. Interview a CRS or telemarketer and a Recruitment Manager to get additional information. God bless you.

(Dr. Santamaria is president of Career Systems Inc. Visit their website at www.careersystems.com.ph.)

Your first job search

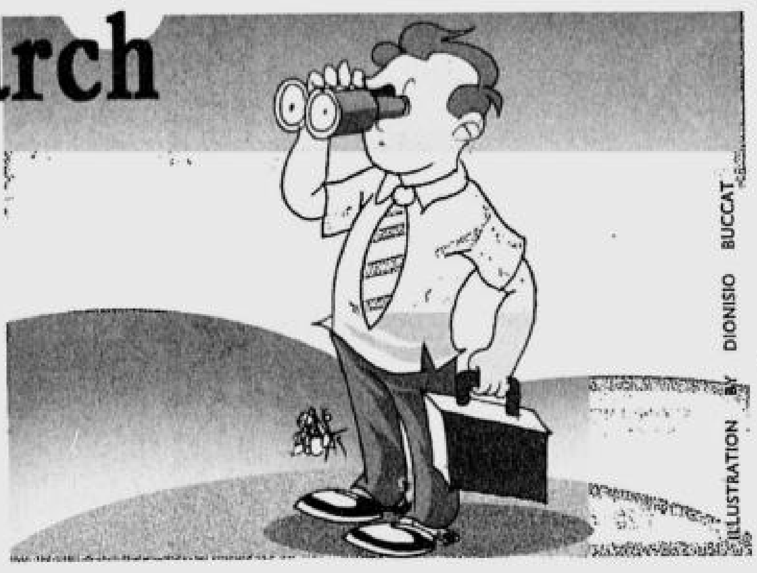
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Vicente U. Kilayko
Contributor

AS PART of DBM, A GLOBAL transitions company, I am often asked to speak before students on how to conduct their job search. The principles of looking for a job remain the same whether you are 40 years old or just starting out right after the university.

Despite the long discussions that you may hear, finding a job is nothing more than the matching of your skills and competencies with the requirements of the position. Given this fundamental, let us explore what a young graduate needs to do to find his/her first job.

Know yourself

Graduates have spent four or more years in school pursuing a degree. Yet, oftentimes when you ask a recent graduate what job opportunities he/she is looking for, the answer is; "Any job that pays well." Isn't it ironic that the graduate does not really know what he/she wants after investing all his/her time and effort in learning a particular discipline?

Knowing yourself is the most important first step. Write down the skills and competencies that you have acquired until now. Do you like to meet people? Are you creative? Do you like to work with numbers? Do you like to do research?

What have you accomplished? Were you in a school organization? Are you a member of a sports team? Have you delivered a presentation? What about your academic standing? What outside activities did you join during the summer?

Given this background, talk to your career counselor, mentor or parents and discuss your job preference. It is important that your future job aligns with your personal values and strengths. It is also very important that you clearly identify what positions you want to apply for. Success inevitably follows if there is an alignment.

Research

After knowing what jobs you want to apply for, the next step is to research and identify your target companies. You can start with the Internet. Continue by talking to friends or relatives who may know of the type of companies that you are looking for. List these companies down in the order of your preference. Perhaps you may also want to consider other factors such as distance from your home, multinational or local, size, products or services offered, etc.

Check out the classified ads or Internet job sites if your target companies are actively looking to fill in job vacancies. Remember that only 30 per cent of the job vacancies are published in the open market. Most of the job openings are not posted and require that you seek them out through networking or applying directly.

Prepare your customized resumé

You know the job you want and your target companies. The next step is to let them know that you are available. Send them your customized resumé. Oftentimes, graduates prepare just one resumé which they photocopy and send to as many companies as possible. Talk about being ineffective.

A resumé should sell your specific skill and competency to your target company. Remember knowing yourself? Each target company will have slightly different requirements based on the positions that are open. To be most effective, the graduate should prepare a resumé which aligns his/her competency to that particular job. Perhaps the job requires more interaction with customers. A background in working with others in an extra-curricular activity may be highlighted in your resumé.

A resumé is your marketing tool to get the target company to be interested in you. Your best approach is to write down your accomplishments in the area that is required in the job. Once you get the attention of the reader, you should receive that long awaited call to come in for an interview.

Interview for success

The secret to a successful interview is prepare, prepare, prepare and prepare. Coming in on time and dressing properly are basic and discussed more fully in various articles. To prepare means to know the company ahead of time and anticipate what skills and competencies you have that are required by your target company. This will take more research from you. The more you know about your target company, the greater your chances of having that successful interview.

Preparation also includes anticipating the questions that will be asked. Oftentimes you will come across standard questions like: Tell me about yourself. What were your most significant accomplishments? What do you know about our company? How did you do in school?

Companies often use the targeted selection process where a specific set of behaviors are the predetermined criteria. The interviewer will identify past actions which will predict the behavior of the applicant in the future. For a new graduate, these past actions will come from his/her academic and extra-curricular experience. That is why it is important for students to have activities beyond just the academics. Leadership potential, for example, is is often identified in such activities as sports or school/church organizations.

Getting the job offer

The words that will sound like music to your ears could be: "We would like to make you a job offer" or simply "When can you start?" Resist the temptation to accept the offer right away. A response like, "Can I call you tomorrow to give my answer?" is perfectly acceptable. Give yourself the chance to discuss the job offer at hand with your parents. Once you have settled down and come to a complete agreement on the job offer, a simple phone call to give your affirmative response is all that is required.

What if you did not get that job offer?

Don't despair. If you have been interviewed, this means that your resumé is getting the right attention and that you are marketable. Consider each opportunity for an interview as preparation for your future interviews. One of these days, you will get that job offer. Good luck!

(Mr. Kilayko is a director of DBM Philippines Inc. Send feedbacl to info@dbm.com.ph *or telephone number 6700-8415.)*

One-year courses should get students jobs, says school exec

By Vincent Cabreza,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A UNIVERSITY here is reviewing its curriculum so that even a year's worth of school should get a student better chances for employment.

"We have come to the realization that parents may not always be able to spend for their child's tuition. So what happens when an engineering student is unable to raise tuition for next year? His one year in school today doesn't get him a job," said Armando Galimba, executive vice president of the University of Baguio.

"We want to change that by certifying each year of school so a nursing student's year in college can guarantee her a care giving job, or one year of engineering school avails that student a draftsmanship certification," he said.

Galimba, a former Cordillera director of the Department of Trade and Industry, said he is hoping this initiative, which UB president Herminio Bautista has set in motion for the coming semester, would be a solution to rising tuition costs.

He said the proposed certification process would need support from the job market itself.

Progress has been made in matching courses to the demands of the labor market, he said, but businesses still demand a four-year diploma as a prerequisite.

"This conditioning caused many students to look down on technical schools despite the fact that these courses bring them real jobs," Galimba said.

The Regional Development Council, which is co-chaired by former UB president Virgilio Bautista, is aiming to generate a reputation for Baguio and its nearby provinces as the education center of Northern Luzon.

But the education market is reeling from increasing costs that force many colleges in Baguio to raise their fees, some by as much as 17 percent.

Saint Louis University, the largest and oldest Baguio institution, is raising its fees by 7 percent (not 17 percent as originally reported to education officials). UB is increasing fees by 7.5 percent.

Galimba said increases are inevitable because "everything has become expensive."

"There is real inflation. Supplies are expensive. Power is expensive. The demand for wages is increasing, and 70 percent of the fees schools collect pay for teachers. That leaves schools with 20 percent for operations and maybe only 10 percent in earnings," Galimba said.

BORACAY
TERCONNECTION
PROJECT

CLEANER AIR FOR BORACAY ISLAND VIA TRANSCO'S SUBMARINE CABLE
National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) President Dr. Alan T. Ortiz (extreme left), along with other government officials and businessmen, recently led the inauguration ceremony for the P149-million Panay-Boracay Interconnection Project (PBIP) which will further boost the island of Boracay as the country's premier tourist destination. The TransCo chief said the power project is "about the future of the Philippine's jewel that is Boracay. Last year, Boracay earned P9-billion in tourism revenues and this is what we are preserving here." On hand to participate in the ceremonial switch-on were (from left) Fr. Francisco Silva, Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification; Rodolfo Albano, Chairman - Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC); Hon.Florencio Miraflores, Aklan Representative; Edita Bueno, Administrator - National Electrification Administration (NEA); Eduardo Mañalac, President - Philippine National Oil Company; Fr. Jose Romeo Lazo, Bishop - Diocese of Kalibo; Oscar Palabyab, Undersecretary - Department of Tourism; Augusto Tolentino, President - Akelco; Wayne Malilay, General Manager - Akelco, Maylynn Aguirre-Graf, President - Boracay Foundation Inc.; Kasuo Sanjo, Chairman of the Board - J-Power, Toshio Satoh, General Manager - Kanematsu; and Winifredo Pangilinan, VP for Engineering - TransCo. Other prominent officials also graced the event, including Paul Aquino, President - PNOC-EDC; Jesus Dureza, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process; Felix Guanzon, Presidential Adviser for the Visayas; and Reuben Reinoso, Deputy Director General - National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

Supervisory leadership enhancement

YOUR BUSINESS performance, to a large extent, depends on how effective your supervisors lead your people. Remember, a supervisor may be technically competent but if he is handicapped by poor leadership skills, your company will not reach its full potential. Empower your leaders. Let them attend the very important seminar on Developing Your Supervisory Leadership slated on April 26, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. The seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Please call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

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U-belt career fair

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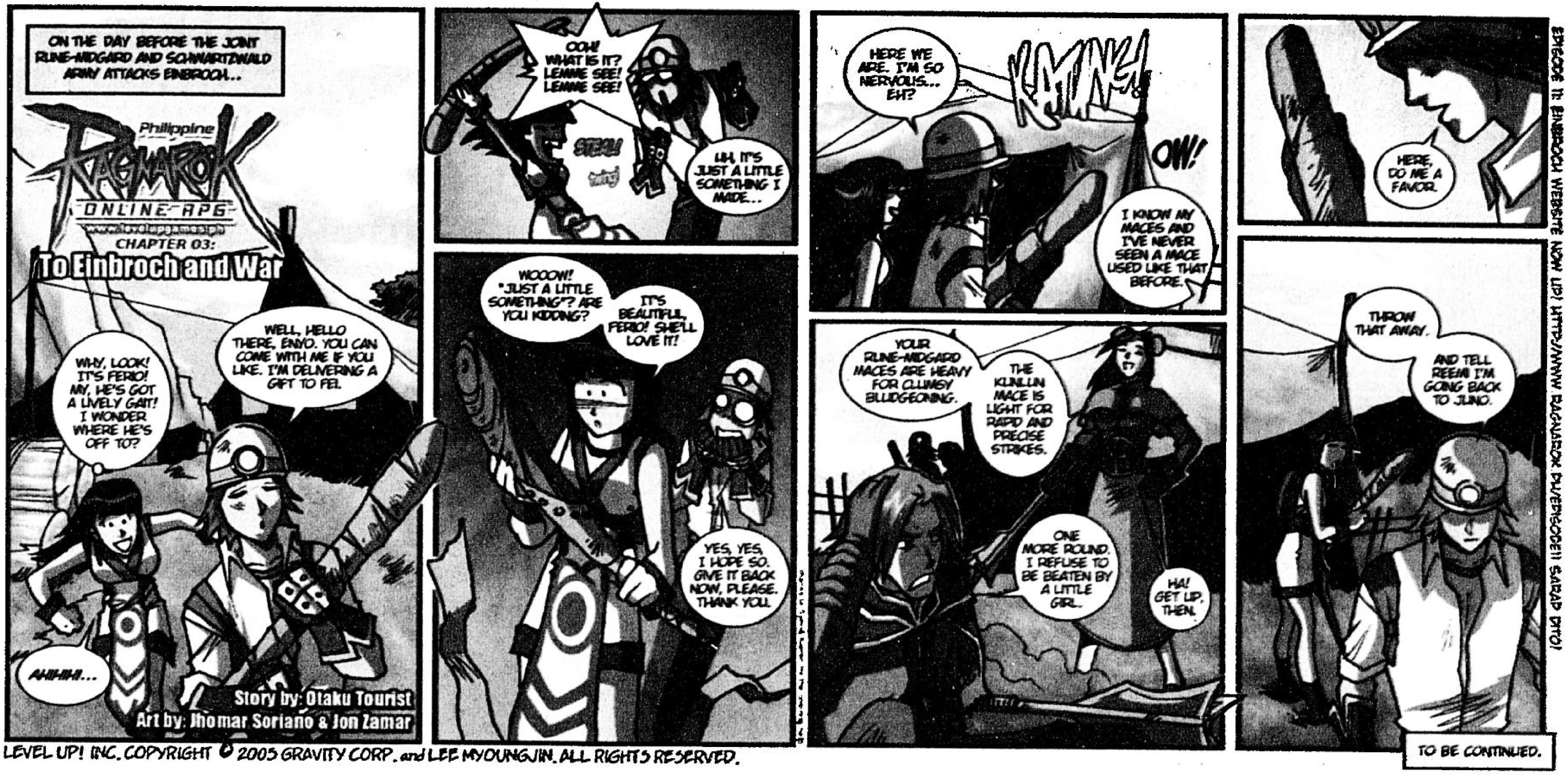
BY LEVEL UP GAMES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Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
CHAPTER 03:
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WELL, HELLO THERE, ENYO. YOU CAN COME WITH ME IF YOU LIKE. I'M DELIVERING A GIFT TO FEI.
AHIHIHI...
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar
OOH! WHAT IS IT? LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!
STEAL!
UH, IT'S JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I MADE...
WOOOW! "JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING"? ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, FERIO! SHE'LL LOVE IT!
YES, YES, I HOPE SO. GIVE IT BACK NOW, PLEASE. THANK YOU.
HERE WE ARE. I'M SO NERVOUS... EH?
OW!
I KNOW MY MACES AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A MACE USED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
YOUR RUNE-MIDGARD MACES ARE HEAVY FOR CLUMSY BLUDGEONING.
THE KUNLUN MACE IS LIGHT FOR RAPID AND PRECISE STRIKES.
ONE MORE ROUND. I REFUSE TO BE BEATEN BY A LITTLE GIRL.
HA! GET UP, THEN.
HERE, DO ME A FAVOR.
THROW THAT AWAY.
AND TELL REEM I'M GOING BACK TO JUNO.
TO BE CONTINUED.
EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

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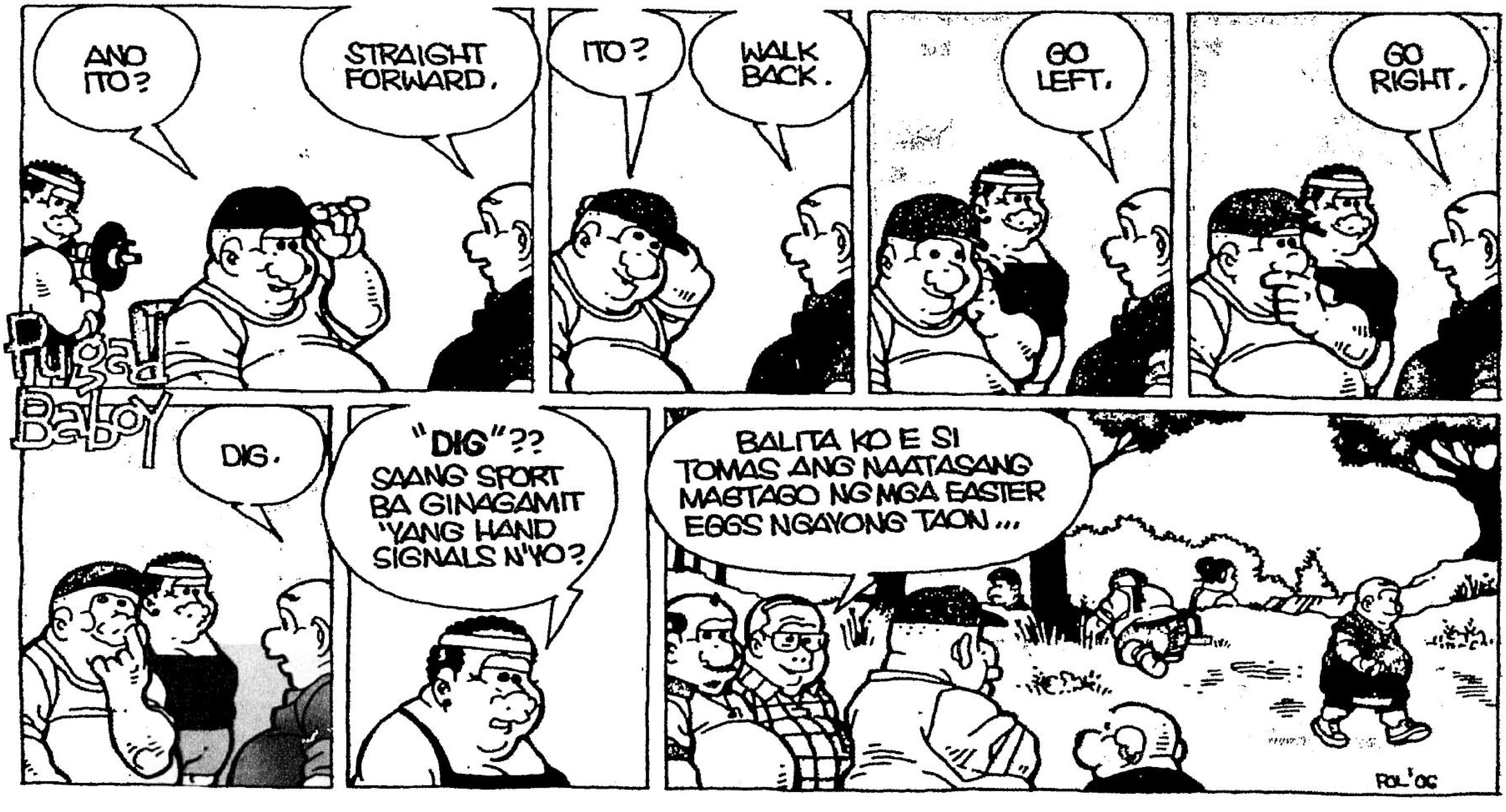
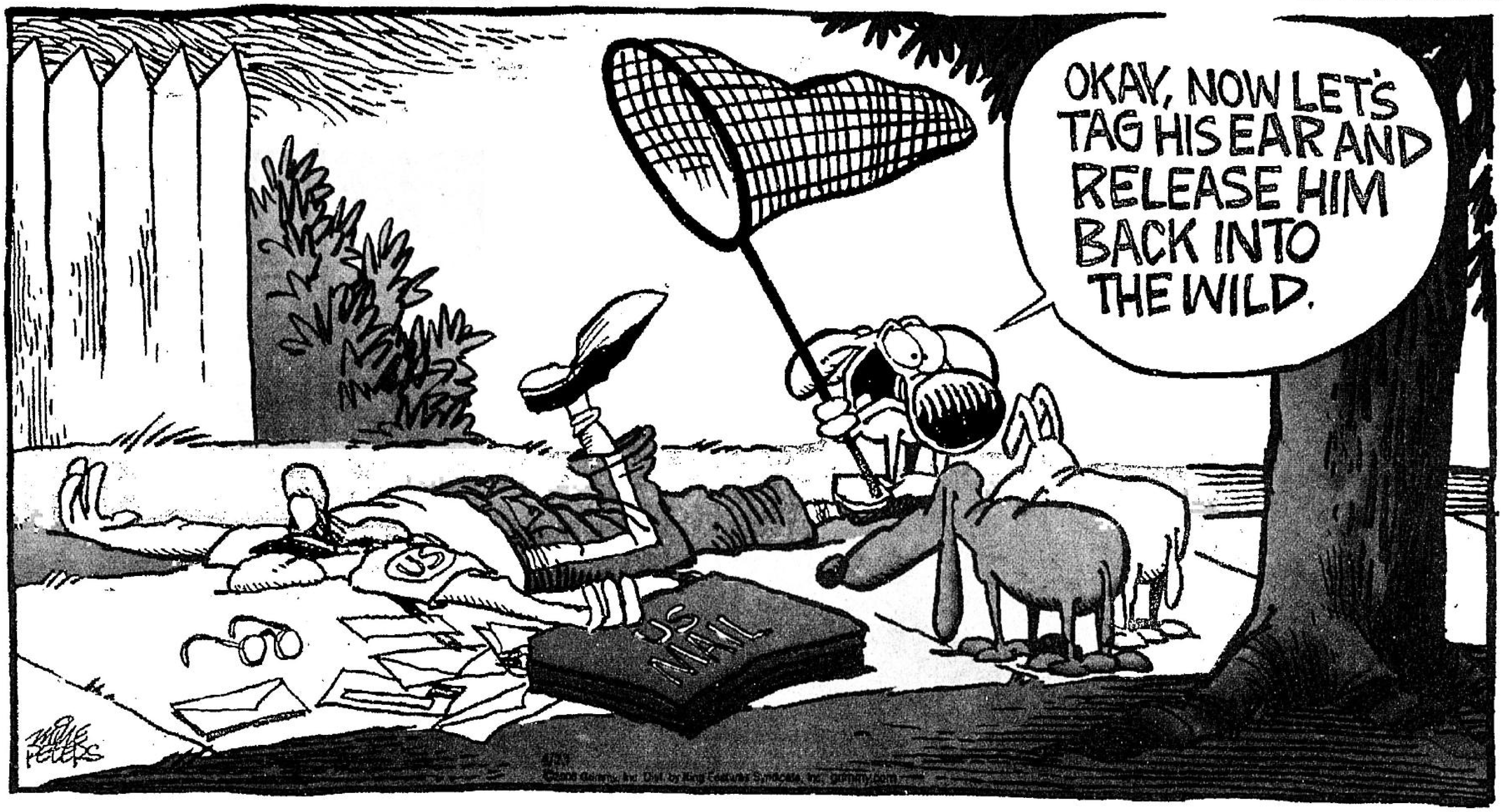
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


ANO ITO?
STRAIGHT FORWARD.
ITO?
WALK BACK.
GO LEFT.
GO RIGHT.
Pugad Baboy
DIG.
"DIG"?? SAANG SPORT BA GINAGAMIT 'YANG HAND SIGNALS N'YO?
BALITA KO E SI TOMAS ANG NAATASANG MAGTAGO NG MGA EASTER EGGS NGAYONG TAON...
POL '06

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OKAY, NOW LET'S TAG HIS EAR AND RELEASE HIM BACK INTO THE WILD.
US
US MAIL
MIKE PETERS
4/23
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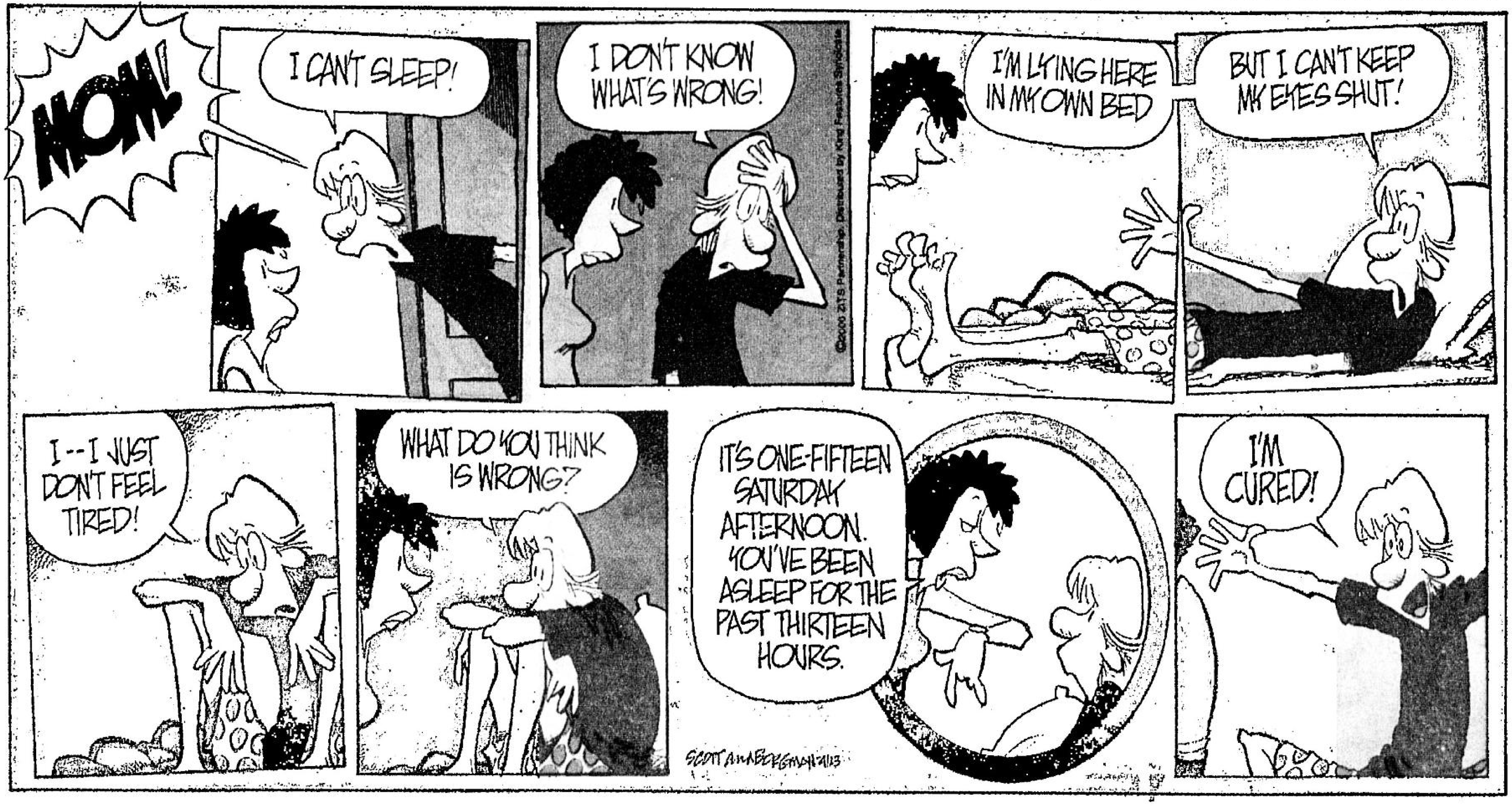
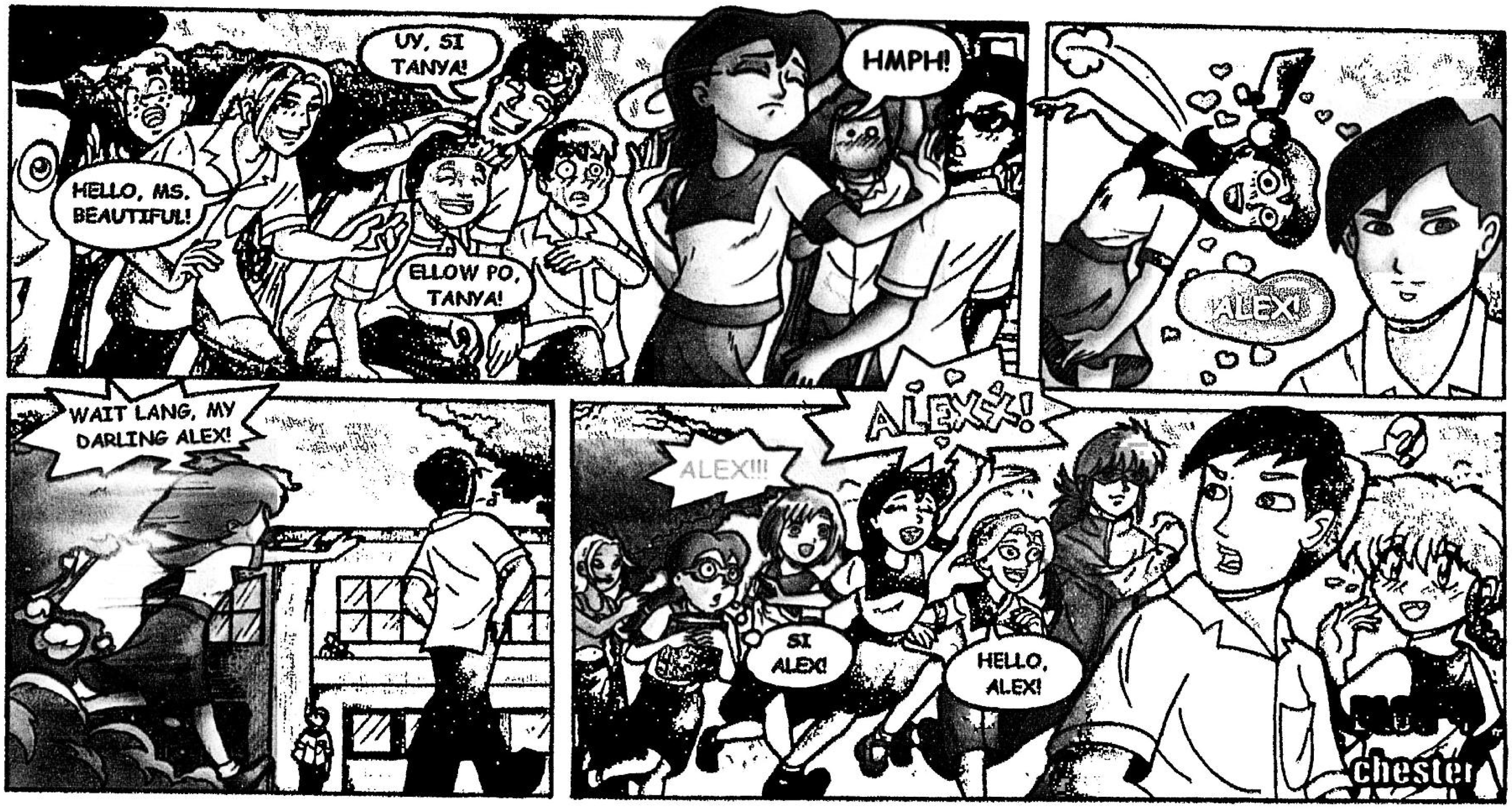
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


MOM!
I CAN'T SLEEP!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG!
©2000 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
I'M LYING HERE IN MY OWN BED
BUT I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES SHUT!
I--I JUST DON'T FEEL TIRED!
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS WRONG?
IT'S ONE-FIFTEEN SATURDAY AFTERNOON. YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR THE PAST THIRTEEN HOURS.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

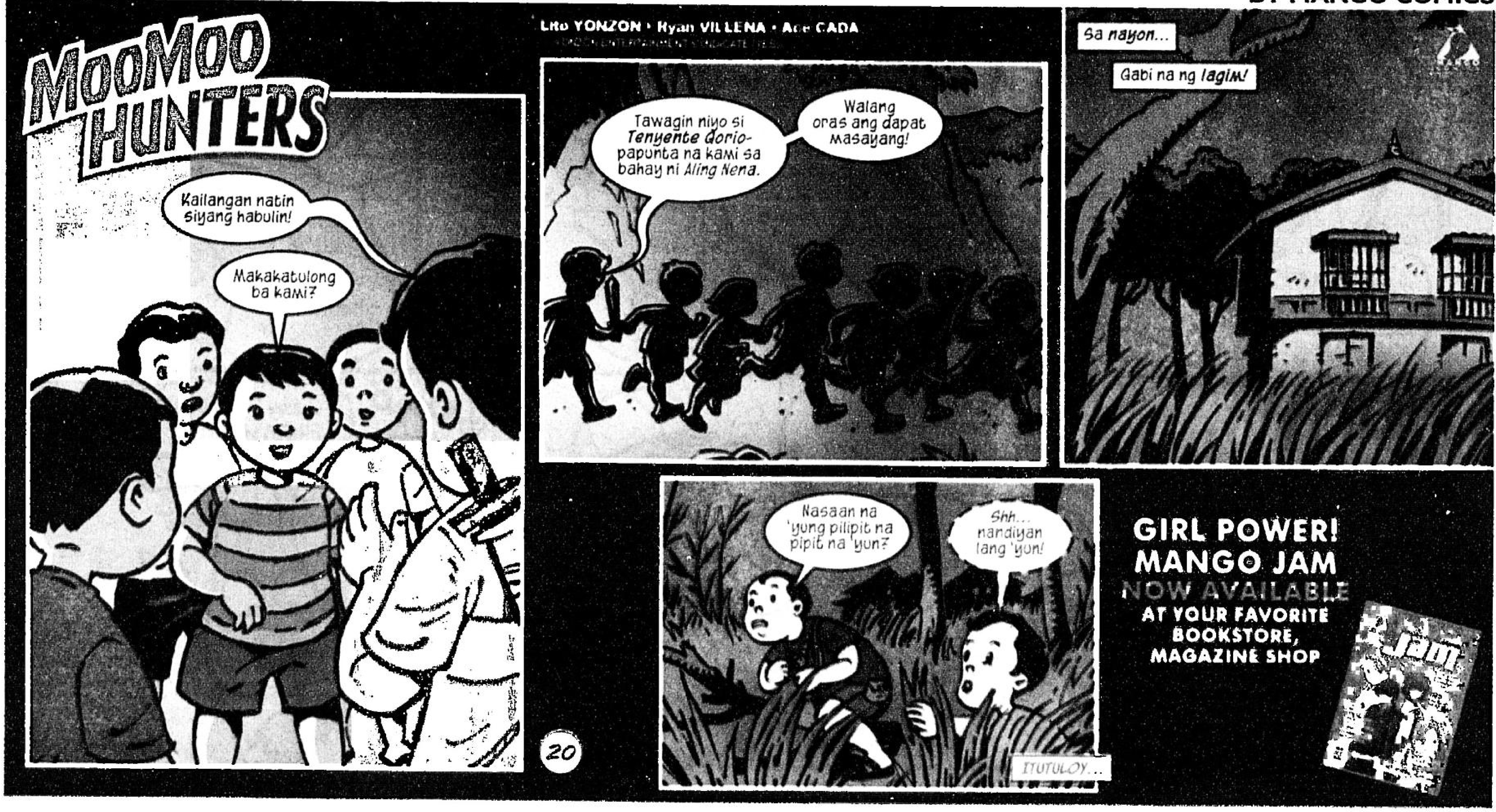
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


UY, SI TANYA!
HELLO, MS. BEAUTIFUL!
ELLOW PO, TANYA!
HMPH!
ALEX!
WAIT LANG, MY DARLING ALEX!
ALEXXX!
ALEX!!!
SI ALEX!
HELLO, ALEX!
chester

MOOMOO HUNTERS

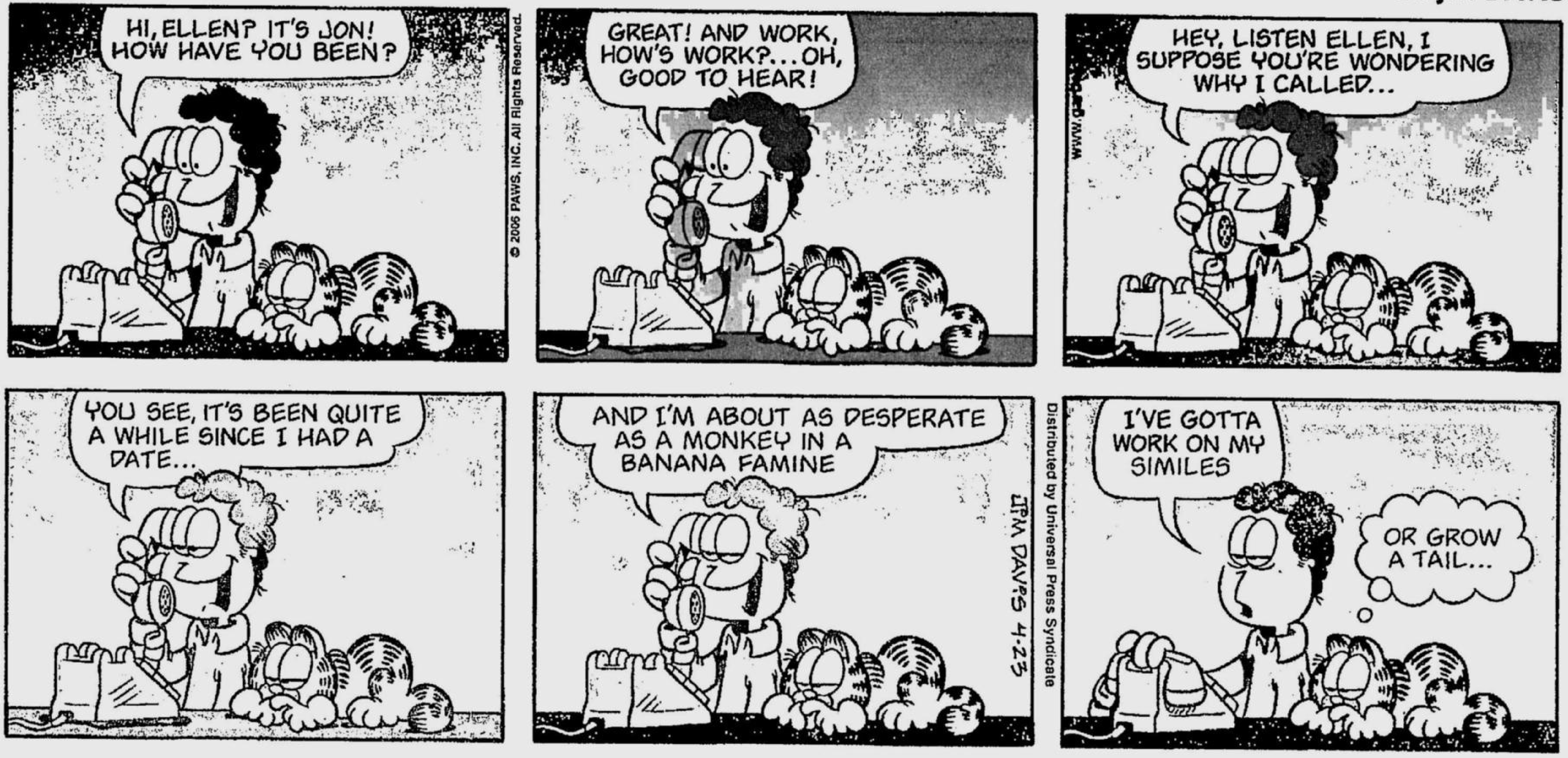
BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
Kailangan natin siyang habulin!
Makakatulong ba kami?
Tawagin niyo si *Tenyente Gorio*- papunta na kami sa bahay ni *Aling Nena*.
Walang oras ang dapat masayang!
Sa *nayon*...
Gabi na ng *lagim!*
Nasaan na 'yung pilipit na pipit na 'yun?
Shh... nandiyan lang 'yun!
ITUTULOY...
20
Jam

GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP

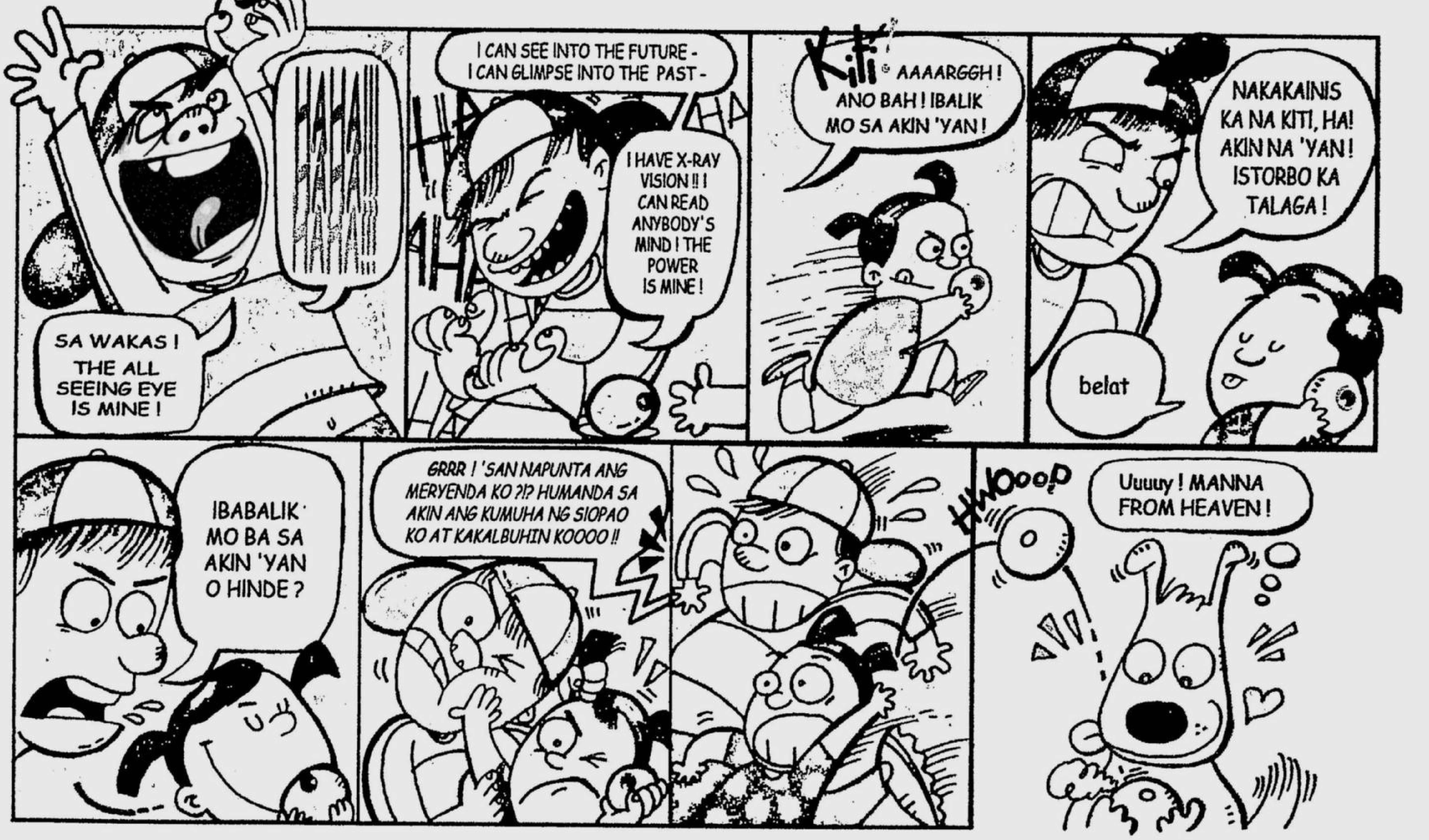
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

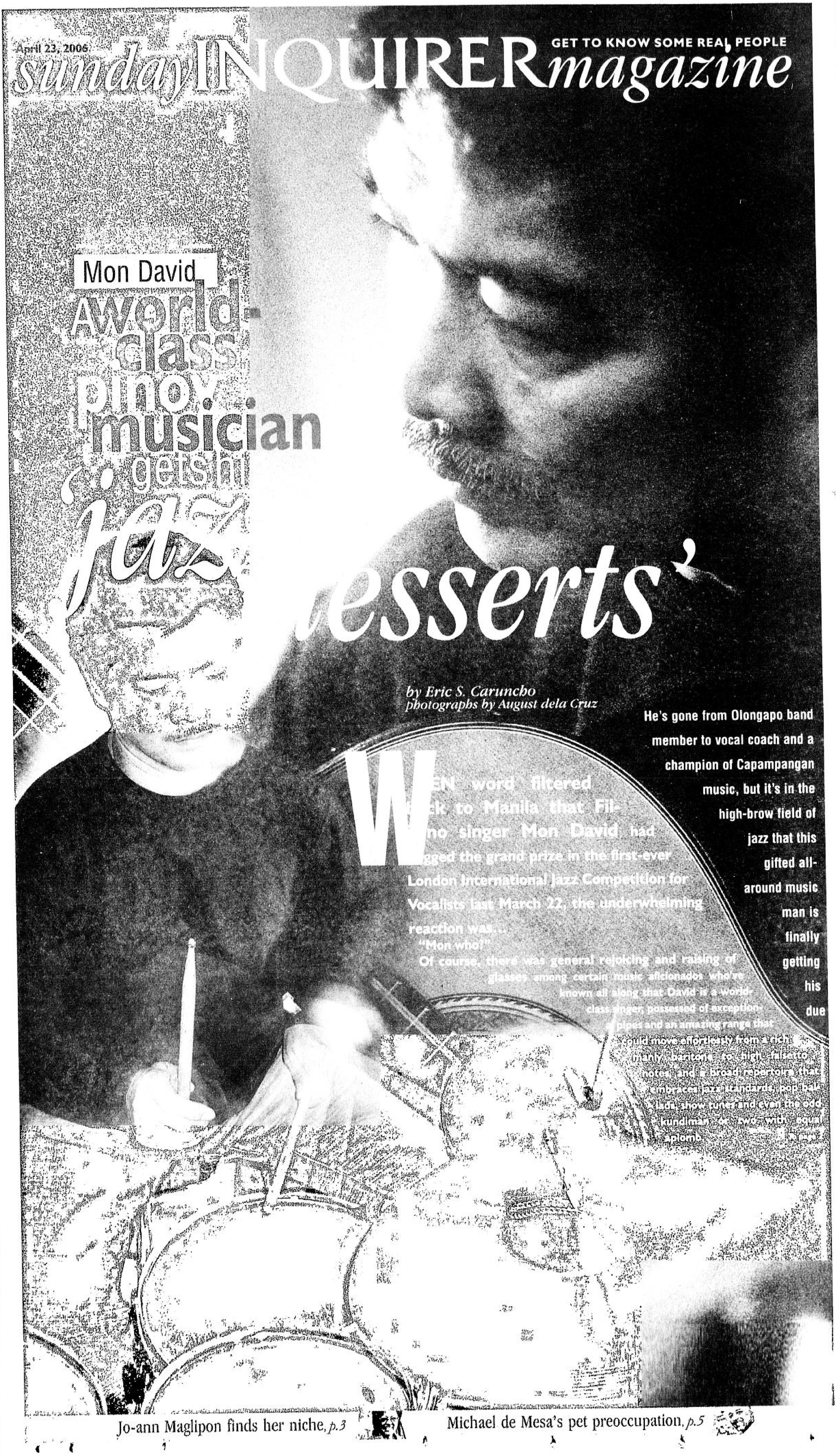

HI, ELLEN? IT'S JON! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
© 2006 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
GREAT! AND WORK, HOW'S WORK?...OH, GOOD TO HEAR!
HEY, LISTEN ELLEN, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CALLED...
YOU SEE, IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE I HAD A DATE...
AND I'M ABOUT AS DESPERATE AS A MONKEY IN A BANANA FAMINE
JIM DAVIS 4-23
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
I'VE GOTTA WORK ON MY SIMILES
OR GROW A TAIL...

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


HAHAHAHAHA
SA WAKAS! THE ALL SEEING EYE IS MINE!
I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE - I CAN GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST -
HA HA HA
I HAVE X-RAY VISION!! I CAN READ ANYBODY'S MIND! THE POWER IS MINE!
Kiti! AAAARGGH! ANO BAH! IBALIK MO SA AKIN 'YAN!
NAKAKAINIS KA NA KITI, HA! AKIN NA 'YAN! ISTORBO KA TALAGA!
belat
IBABALIK MO BA SA AKIN 'YAN O HINDE?
GRRR! 'SAN NAPUNTA ANG MERYENDA KO?!? HUMANDA SA AKIN ANG KUMUHA NG SIOPAO KO AT KAKALBUHIN KOOOO!!
HWOOOP
Uuuuy! MANNA FROM HEAVEN!

April 23, 2006
*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Mon David
A world-class pinoy musician gets hi
'jaz esserts'

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by August dela Cruz

He's gone from Olongapo band member to vocal coach and a champion of Capampangan music, but it's in the high-brow field of jazz that this gifted all-around music man is finally getting his due

WHEN word filtered back to Manila that Filipino singer Mon David had bagged the grand prize in the first-ever London International Jazz Competition for Vocalists last March 22, the underwhelming reaction was...

"Mon who?"

Of course, there was general rejoicing and raising of glasses among certain music aficionados who've known all along that David is a world-class singer, possessed of exceptional pipes and an amazing range that could move effortlessly from a rich, manly baritone to high falsetto notes, and a broad repertoire that embraces jazz standards, pop ballads, show tunes and even the odd kundiman or two with equal aplomb. [illegible]

Jo-ann Maglipon finds her niche, *p.3*

Michael de Mesa's pet preoccupation, *p.5*

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Editor in Chief **Alya B. Honasan**
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Associate Editor **Ruel S. De Vera**
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Graphic Designer **Chuchie Quevedo-See**
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THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

BARBIE IDOL

I've seen Barbie Almabis (**SIM**, 9 April, 2006) grow as a successful singer-songwriter. As I remember, she was the first female rock star in the mid '90s who played the guitar and harmonica well. Not only that, she also has an oh-so-sweet voice that captures the hearts of anyone who listens to her songs. He first song "*Torpe*" was a big hit and so were her succeeding songs. Truly, she is idolized, respected and recognized by a lot of young people.

ALLEN GRACE J.CONTRERAS
Young St. John Integrated School
Angono, Rizal

Poetry

Kyrie Eleison

Para makahalik
sa paa ng nakapako,
hipuin at magdasal
nang malapitan,
mahaba at mabagal
ang pila mula sa dulo
ng gitnang pasilyo,
isa-isang hakbang
na walang kibo
patungo sa ibaba
ng mataas na altar.
Malamang, para
sa mga banal, wagas
na pag-aalay ng sarili.
Marahil, para sa higit
na marami, taimtim na
paghiling at paghingi
-ng mga nawala o
ng hindi kasingsakit o
ng hindi sukdulan ang
kawalan, ng kung ano'ng
babawas sa hirap at hapis,
malamang kasama
ang kapatawaran para
sa marami nitong
mga anino ng anak.

Laman at dugo
ang kulay, makintab
dahil sa mga langis
na madalas ipahid,
kasama ng paghimas
ng walang-bilang
na mga kamay. May
hihip, may pahiwatig
ng mga pabango,
luma, naghalo-halo at
wala nang pangalan.
Nabura na ang pintura
sa ilang bahagi dahil
sa dami ng tao at dami
ng taon, kung baga'y
tunay na balat ng tunay
na ugat sa paligid ng sugat
ng mga paang pinagkrus
at ng pakong tumagos,
nagpapaalaala ng haba
ng panahon, ng tindi
ng hirap at hapis, ng
hindi matatapos na
paghiling at paghingi,
naghahayag ng higit
na bigat at higit na lalim,
hanggang sa malayo
dito sa pasilyo, mula
sa inukit na kahoy.

Jose Marte A. Abueg

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Mon

...*from page 1*

So why isn't he as famous as, say, Nyoy Volante?

The pop-consuming masses can perhaps be forgiven their ignorance, but even in jazz circles, David has always been a little too hip for the squares, and too square for the hipsters. He'll do standards like "My One And Only Love" or "Nature Boy" that might be a little too deep for "smooth jazz" fans. But then, he'll also do a couple of Gary Granada songs to throw off the jazz snobs.

A musician's musician

In short, Mon David is a musician's musician. That's the problem right there. Credit is good, but we need cash. Musicians don't buy concert tickets; they want you to put them on the guest list or at least sneak them in backstage. They don't buy albums; they expect you to get them a complimentary copy from the label. And while nothing warms a musician's heart more than the acclaim of his peers, it won't pay the rent.

And so, his fellow musicians continue to wring their hands and rail at the sheer injustice of Mon David not being a star. Or at least, better known than Nyoy Volante.

Meanwhile, David continues to follow his own muse.

"My attitude is, I have to feel the song, I have to enjoy it first, before I can sing it in front of an audience. How can you fulfill yourself onstage if you don't enjoy your own material? The song has to resonate with me before it becomes a permanent fixture of my repertoire, so I'm not dependent on what's a hit, what's on the charts, what the majority wants. My basis is always: Does it feel good to sing the song? Do I feel it? If I've tested a song over a long period and I don't grow tired of it, then it becomes part of my repertoire."

David is still feeling the buzz of his London triumph, and with good reason. Apart from the obvious prestige, and a cash prize of 1,000 British pounds, David also went home with a record deal with Concord UK, the mother company of his local label Concord Philippines, which released his "Life and Times" album last year.

Big break

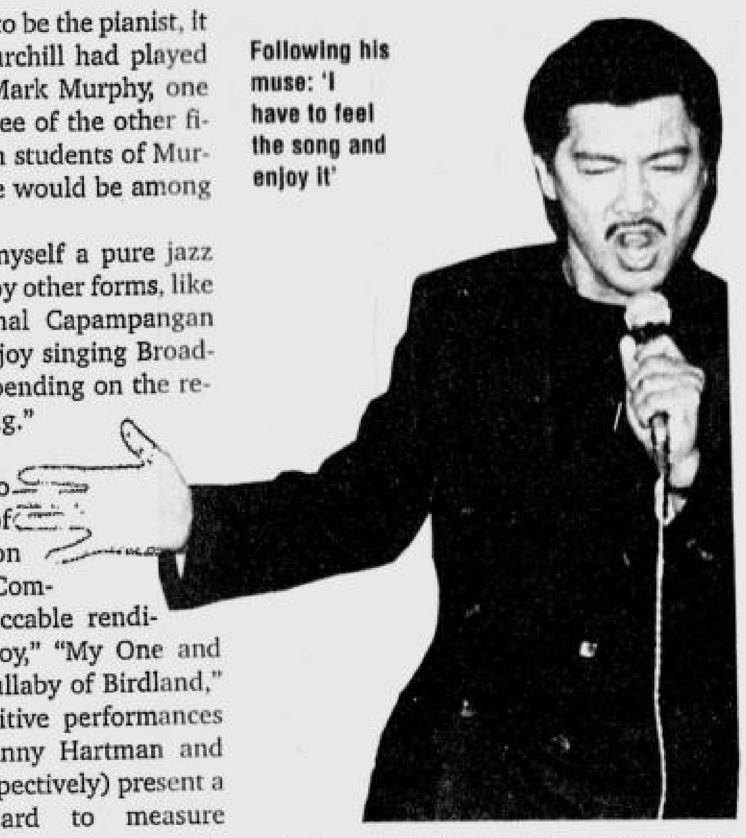
"They want to release it this July, so I'm a bit tense," says David, who's spent every free moment since his return in the studio, recording new material for his upcoming international release. Apparently, Concord UK found "Life and Times" a little too eclectic, with its mix of jazz, pop ballads and Capampangan songs, and want a pure jazz album for the international market. He's also scheduled to return to London for a series of club gigs, including one at the legendary venue Ronnie Scott's, where artists as diverse as Nina Simone and Van Morrison have appeared. If things work out, it could be David's big break.

And to think that in the beginning, he wasn't even convinced he should join the competition.

"Before I decided to send my material, I felt a dilemma. A jazz competition? The totality of jazz, the improvisational aspect, having your own individual identifiable style runs counter to the idea of a competition. At first I wasn't hot about it."

However, when he learned that Pete Churchill was going to be the pianist, it clinched things. Churchill had played with bebop singer Mark Murphy, one of David's idols. Three of the other finalists had also been students of Murphy's, so he knew he would be among kindred spirits.

"I wouldn't call myself a pure jazz singer because I enjoy other forms, like kundiman, traditional Capampangan folk tunes, and I enjoy singing Broadway and R & B, depending on the requirements of the gig."



Following his muse: 'I have to feel the song and enjoy it'

Nevertheless, David was able to impress the panel of judges at the London International Jazz Competition with impeccable renditions of "Nature Boy," "My One and Only Love" and "Lullaby of Birdland," songs whose definitive performances (by Nat Cole, Johnny Hartman and Sarah Vaughan, respectively) present a demanding standard to measure against.

Rich tones

"According to the panelists, what did it for me was my range of rich tones from the lower to the upper registers," he recalls. "They also liked the fluidity of my phrasing, my ability to go from melodic to percussive or rhythmic."

Mon David grew up in his hometown of Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, hearing traditional Capampangan folk songs and the music of songwriters such as Constancio de Guzman being sung around the house by his parents and family members. He was a student at the Pampanga High School, when he formed his first band.

"My first band was called Heavy Blues," he recalls. "We didn't actually play heavy blues, we just liked the way it sounded. We did covers of Santana, Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears. I was the drummer and vocalist."

David soon found himself in Olongapo, then the Mecca for aspiring rock bands, where he was promptly pirated by the Cobras, a more professional outfit.

"I was only 17 when I started earning a living as a musician," he recalls. "I went back and forth to Japan for two years with the Cobras."

It was in a bar in Osaka called the Crazy Horse that David found his muse. In order to earn extra cash, in between sets by the Cobras at the bar's disco, David would also sing at the lounge accompanied by a pianist.

"That's how I learned how to sing standards," he recalls. "Once in a while the audience would request Japanese love songs. I was also listening to Gershwin and classical music on the radio. I started to feel restless."

More than a drummer

David knew he wanted to be a singer more than a disco drummer pounding four-four all night long, so he took his leave from the Cobras and went home, where he enrolled at the University of the Philippines College of Music as a Voice major, with a minor in Composition.

It was the late 1970s, and Pinoy jazz was enjoying an unprecedented popularity with the release of Eddie Munji's "Pinoy Jazz" and Ryan Cyabyab's "Routes to Roots" albums. David's classmates such as Tots Tolentino and Johnny Alegre were forming bands.

David was only a semester or two away from graduating when his savings ran out, and he had to go back to performing in hotel lounges. While doing the hotel circuit, he caught the ear of Apo Hiking Society manager Butch Dans. Dans needed a baritone for the vocal quartet he was forming, patterned after the then-popular group Manhattan Transfer, to be called Fourplay, and David fit the bill.

As the 1980s dawned, the Apo needed a drummer, and David was again drafted to fill in. That began a fruitful, seven-year partnership that saw David emerge from session drummer, to session vocalist, to vocal coach, and finally to co-producer of the group's *"Mga Kuwento ng Apo"* album. So indispensable did David become to the group's onstage sound that people started calling him "the fourth Apo."

But David was too versatile to be tied down to just one thing, even a franchise as successful as the Apo. In 1991, he was launched as a solo artist with a concert titled, ironically, "Out of The Shadows." The concert took him from semi-obscurity to semi-popularity, while cementing his reputation among fellow musicians as someone who could do it all.

Not exactly hotcakes

David has recorded three albums to date: *"Salamat sa Alaala,"* "Soulitude" and last year's "Life and Times." Each has managed to snag several awards from the usual award-giving bodies, while not exactly selling like hotcakes.

At the same time, he has continued to sing with groups as diverse as the festival group Jazz Fiesta and the comedy quartet the Ang-4 (formerly known as the Angfourgettables), and essay roles in musical theater such as George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" and "Rama at Sita."

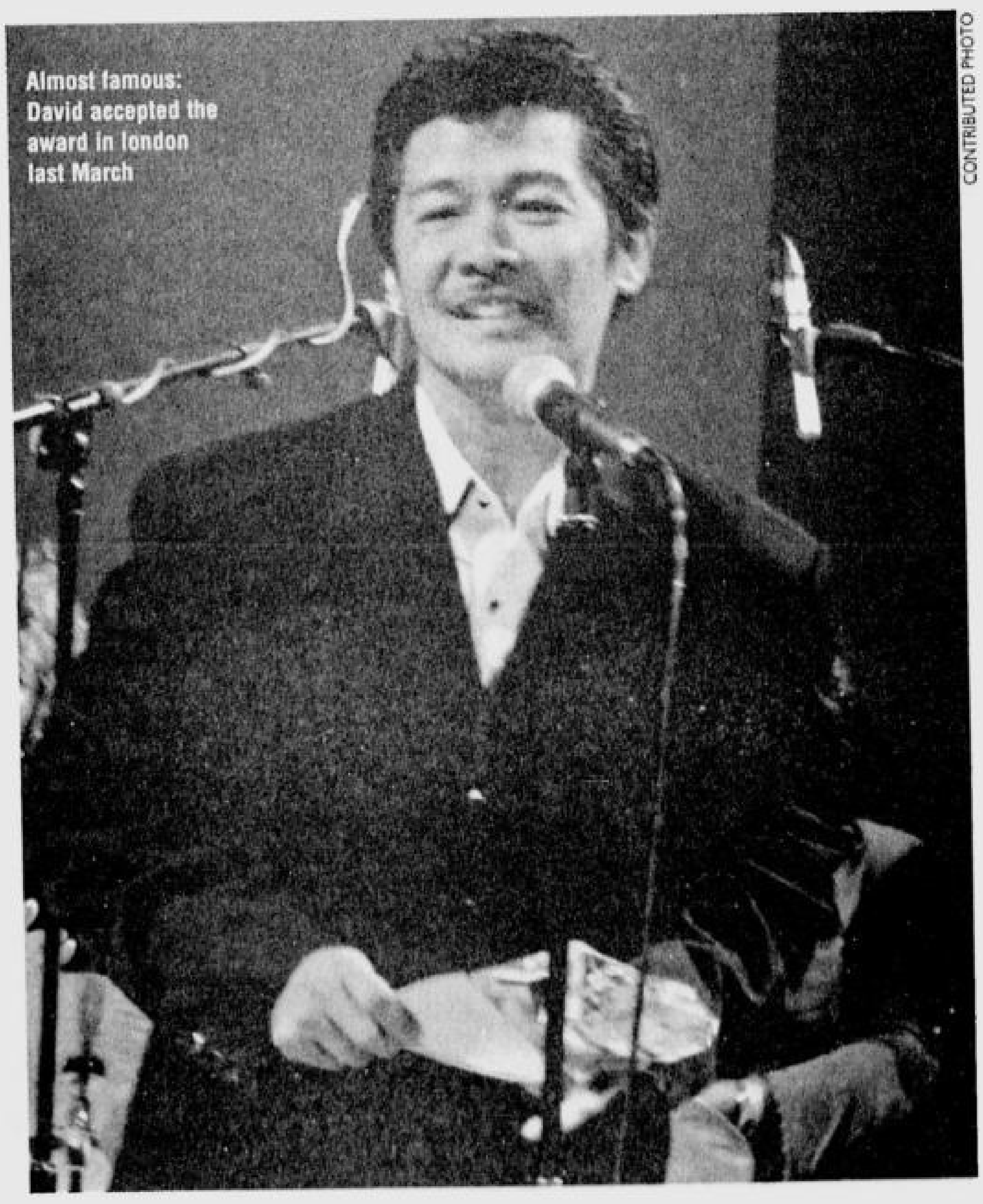
David has also taken it upon himself to revive the Capampangan song. A few years back, he recorded songs for a compilation of Capampangan classics titled "

"Pamalsinta Quing Milabas." Eventually, he went on to record his own all-Capampangan album, *"Abe Mu Ku,"* which included some of his own original compositions. His efforts were rewarded by his *kabalen* when he was named Most Outstanding Kapampangan in the field of arts, culture and music by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Perhaps it is David's versatility that has kept him relatively underappreciated. Modern-day listeners like their music in tidy packages, neatly-labelled "jazz," "pop" or "R & B." A musician like David, who defies easy categorization, no matter how good, could easily fall between the cracks.

David himself admits that he is reluctant to attend to the non-musical aspects of his profession, i.e. image-building, promotion, schmoozing with industry types, preferring to concentrate on the nitty-gritty of songwriting, studio craft and further honing his skills by taking on challenging material. When not working, David spends time with wife Ann and their four children.

"A friend of mine, an 86-year-old doctor, keeps telling me, 'Mon, you don't belong here. You should be going international, you should be in Vegas, earning a lot of money'," he says. "I didn't know how to tell him, but I wanted to say, 'I like what I'm doing. I wouldn't be doing it if it wasn't what I wanted.'"



Almost famous: David accepted the award in london last March

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Writer's Life

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

It's a stretch from martial law to movie stars, but she's found that even showbiz makes for serious journalism

Veteran journalist Jo-Ann Maglipon began her career facing down Marcosian tactics. Who knew she'd end up fighting off lawsuits from the show biz personalities she's learned to appreciate?

OCS ALVAREZ

Hounds of hell they're not: Top dog Maglipon with pets (from left) Scooby, Civic and Clark

HER writings had gotten her in trouble before. Known for her outspoken leftist views on politicians and Marcos cronies during martial law, journalist Jo-Ann Maglipon went underground in 1972 and was detained in 1974. As a freelance writer, she found doors slammed in her face as her powerful subjects threatened to file multi-million-peso libel suits to shut her up. Regular work was hard to come by.

Some 30 years later, Maglipon—now editor-in-chief of the brisk-selling entertainment magazine Yes!—found herself facing down another court case, this time from young actress Claudine Barretto, who had cried invasion of privacy because the magazine used previously-published pictures of her dream house under construction.

People who know Maglipon couldn't decide which was more absurd: the premise of the court suit, or the fact that the writer, a serious and committed journalist, should risk her good name and reputation for what the Lefist movement has always described as a decadent preoccupation of the masses: show business.

No picnic

The revolution is no picnic, and it certainly isn't a movie premiere either, the Communist Party's central committee might huff. But Maglipon is unperturbed. She feels perfectly comfortable where she is, she says, finding no contradiction between the grim world of socio-political commitment in which she had built a name, and the heady swirl of showbiz where she makes a living and has found new friends.

"Is there really any difference between political gossip and showbiz gossip anyway?" she asks. "Gossip is anything that floats around that is neither confirmed nor resolved, nor in any way informed with details or fact. The newspapers are full of stories about President Arroyo and her officials which are neither confirmed nor resolved. Are they any better?" Show business may be messy, but in fact, politics is even more so, she says, "because it often involves spending the people's money, even killing off the enemy. It's definitely more malevolent."

In its own turf, she adds, Yes! Magazine tries to make sense of all the showbiz rumors floating around, so she feels absolutely no guilt about it. She also sees the natural connection between her career choice and her being a Comparative Literature major from Maryknoll (now Miriam College). "Writing and literature are all about storytelling and I've always been interested in anything to do with storytelling, the visuals and the arts. Everybody loves a story and there are plenty of stories in show business, oh, lots and lots of interesting stories."

Inveterate activist

Unfortunately, she acknowledges, "most people have an instinctive bias against local showbiz and its denizens because things are so easy, they earn too much, etc." But did you notice, she adds, "how the same folk who dismiss entertainment as trivial or shallow have hardly done anything to make things better? Do they even fight against censorship or for less taxes?" asks this inveterate activist, who is part of a core group that mobilizes against any form of censorship in the movies and the media. The group includes poet-scriptwriter Pete Lacaba, directors Joel Lamangan, Mel Chionglo and Carlitos Siguion Reyna, theater's Nanding Josef and INQUIRER columnist Conrad de Quiros.

The vigilance against censorship is part of her "other work," says Maglipon. While editing a monthly entertainment rag is something that she enjoys doing, she is into other stuff as well, she adds. "This job completes me, but I am also into human rights work and electoral reforms."

Such preoccupation with politics is something that came naturally to this former *kolehiyala* who recalled being acutely torn between "the refined and civilized world inside Maryknoll" and the blatant inequalities just beyond its gate.

"We were strictly middle class," recalls this eldest of three siblings born to a lawyer and his public school teacher wife. While her classmates came gliding in in flashy cars, she would alight from their stainless owner-type jeep driven by an uncle. That did not stop her from founding the Malayang Kilusan ng Maryknoll after joining the College Editors' Guild, where she would meet future husband Ding Marcelo, now of the Manila Bulletin. The couple has a 29-year-old daughter.

"My exposure to politics was sudden, dramatic and total," Maglipon says of the 1971 CEGP conference held at UP Los Baños that would change her life.

After a year's detention in 1974 for subversion, Maglipon faced the dilemma that other committed writers grappled with during martial law: "Would going back to the media mean announcing to the world that there was indeed a free press under Marcos? On the other hand, if one did not go back to writing, did it mean defaulting on one's responsibility and leaving the field to those who couldn't care less how martial law politics was reported?"

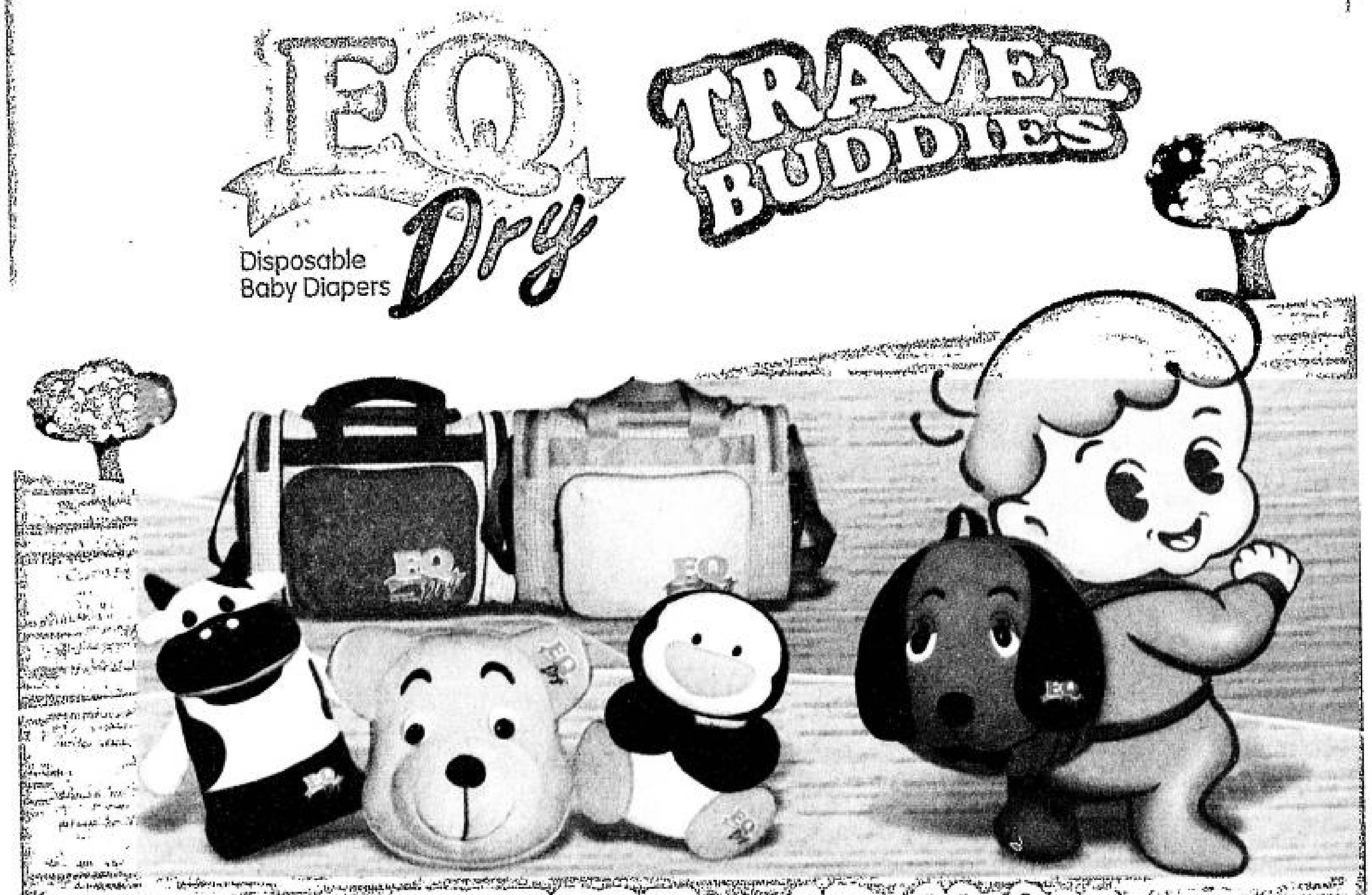
Tentative steps

Unsure about the answer, Maglipon said she took tentative steps towards reentering media by writing about ostensibly non-political reports, "like profiling the poor but avoiding the politics of who made them poor."

Still, her sharp pen pricked some over-inflated martial law personalities who forthwith brandished threats and libel suits against her editors. She was in writer's limbo, recalls Maglipon, until publisher Rod Reyes rescued her with his Celebrity Magazine. That was where she started profiling movie stars, including the forgotten Chaplinesque comic Canuplin. It was easily showbiz writing at its finest. Maglipon had found her forte, and there was no turning back.

"It may be about showbiz, but the magazine can pass every single standard of good journalism—from ethics to correct grammar and style," she says proudly of Yes! which recently celebrated its sixth year with a glittery all-star

To page 6



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V. The chosen premium item/s shall be delivered by LIBCAP Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.

VI. Delivery lead times for the premium items are as follows (commencing upon receipt of "delivery orders" by the courier):

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VII. Premium items will be delivered until 60 days from end of promo period.

VIII. Consumers may join as many times as they want.

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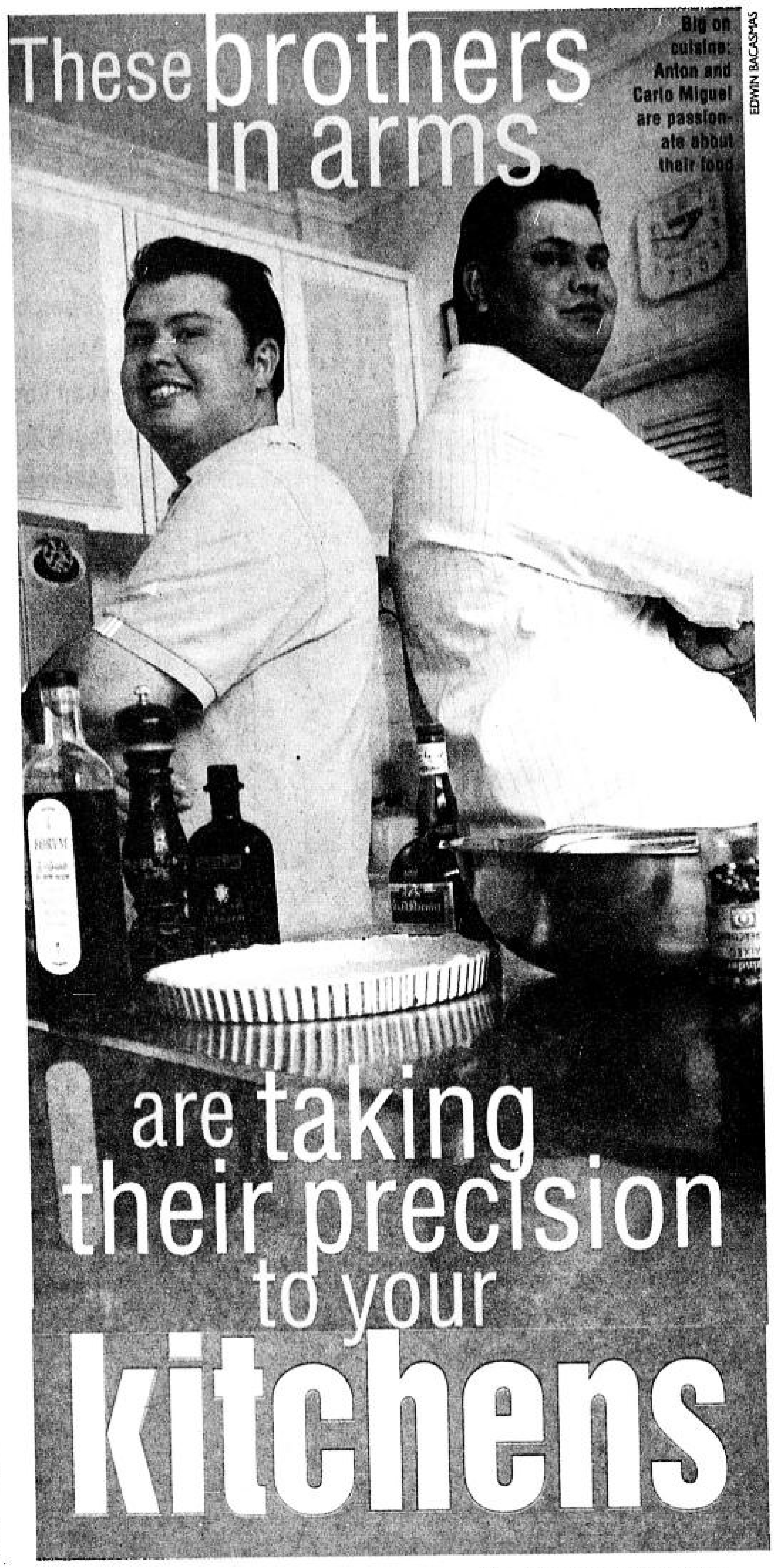
Foodies

by Ruel S. De Vera

These brothers in arms are taking their precision to your kitchens



EDWIN BACASMAS

Big on cuisine: Anton and Carlo Miguel are passionate about their food

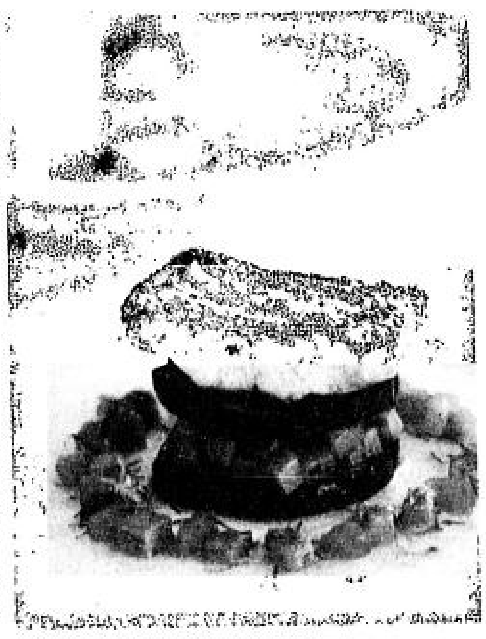
Chefs Anton and Carlo Miguel are large and in charge when it comes to the distinctive dishes they whip up as the metro's hottest personal chefs

THEY are Escalades of the Epicurean industry—and the Chefs Miguel are barreling their way through Metro Manila's evolving personal chef scene. Between the two of them, Anton and Carlo Miguel have 25 years of cooking experience, which shows in their meticulous preparation. Yet there is a lightning dash of cleverness in their concoctions, like an elusive yet unmistakable flavor. Their ingenuity arises from a natural chemistry between these siblings as well as a taste for really good eating. "The food just flows," Carlo says.

That's because for these Filipino-Australian brothers, food is second nature. "Anyone can do it. It's not brain surgery," Anton says. "God knows we're not the smartest sparks in the world. All we do is be passionate about food and the work that we do."

For appetizers, the story begins Down Under. Anton, 33, and Carlo, 29, grew up in Sydney and discovered the lure of the kitchen because, as Carlo says, "you gotta eat." With their parents working, they learned to cook so they could eat once they got home from school. Additionally, Anton explains that the structure and organization that came with cooking appealed to him much more than school did. "I think people who are not comfortable with it simply don't want to be there," Carlo notes. The brothers would go on to study at The Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE (Technical and Further Education) and ply a trade in restaurants and hotels while on their four-year apprenticeship. "You start at the bottom and work your way to the top," Carlo says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Crispy-skinned coral trout with spiced eggplant and pumpkin

Mealtime machinations

The big change came in 2003, when the brothers came to Manila on holiday. They did a couple of dinners for relatives and people began booking them. "It was pretty much the same system that we use now and I thought, 'Why not?'" Anton says. "After I came back to Sydney, I decided to go back to Manila and try it out," Carlo adds.

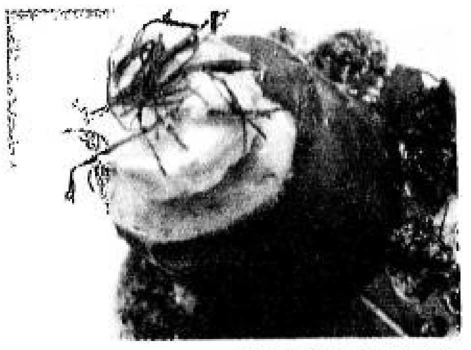
The brothers' creative mealtime machinations, sometimes up to 12 to 14 times a month, have kept their phones ringing. "We sort of fell into it. We were already cooking for intimate numbers of people," Anton says.

The brothers are very up front about what makes them different as personal chefs. "We actually cook the food," Carlo says. "Everything we do is handmade by us. No one else touches the food." Anton says they buy all the food themselves. "One hundred percent. We wouldn't put our names on anything we didn't make ourselves."

The Chefs Miguel menus evolve every six weeks because they're constantly getting bored and seek new kitchen challenges. They do have their own favorites, though their customers do ask for some preferred dishes. "We try to suggest stuff so they can try new things," Anton says. "That's a product of the restaurant scene here. Ultimately, because it's a personal chef thing, it's really up to the client." Carlo notes they have menu samples for different price ranges. The most popular request is for their beef and foie gras. "And about 60 percent of our desserts are soufflés," he adds.

Super spreads

It takes about two days to put together their super spreads, but sourcing the ingredients alone takes half a day. On average, their dinners are composed of six courses and feed up to 48 people. While they've prepared everything from Thai to North African dishes, Filipinos mainly like what's called European or Continental dishes. They cart all their materiel from base in Ayala Alabang to the homes, facing down traffic and all the other obstacles that throw themselves in the way of plans in the big city.



Confit tomato terrine with pesto-flavored goat cheese

Though hunting down ingredients almost seems like a regular and challenging sport to the brothers, golf is what they enjoy in their time away from the ovens. "I also like playing cricket once in a while," Carlo says. Anton is married with one kid, and thus travels back to Sydney with them several times a year, while Carlo is single.

As a next course, the brothers are thinking of a physical venue, even though all the business has kept them too busy to move on to that, perhaps even a restaurant. Carlo explains that the personal chef vocation really is a starting point for them. "We're all for training people, and you've got to raise the industry standard here," Anton adds. "It needs a kick in the butt." Carlo says that people in the food industry need to take criticism seriously instead of taking it personally. "We look at it objectively."

Opinionated and professional

It's that opinionated, detailed and thoroughly professional aspect to the Chefs Miguel that has kept them going. "We're surprised every month," Anton says of the business they get. "We're surprised by the fact that people hire us even if we don't advertise."

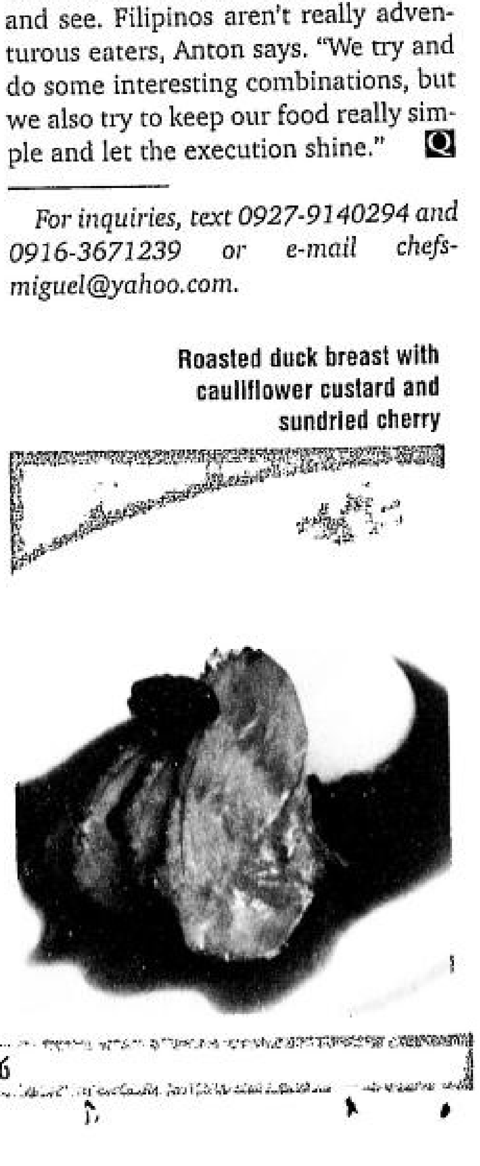
In spite of their calculated, precise approach, there is also a highly instinctive aspect to the Chefs Miguel. "We're really mood-oriented," Anton says. "We really don't cook when we're not on the job." The Chefs Miguel are constantly tinkering away with new ideas, but always in the kitchen itself. "Most of the time, we don't trial anything. We try it out the first time we do it. After a while you sort of know what goes," Anton explains.

Like the brothers and colleagues that they are, the two get along but also disagree occasionally. They are obviously linked by their dedication to culinary adventure. "We're control freaks in a way," Carlo says. They say what's on their minds when it comes to what goes into the menus. "We've offended some people because of that," Anton says. "But we really don't sugarcoat much. People are paying us for what we're doing."

For dessert, the Chefs Miguel are all too willing to surprise you. Just wait and see. Filipinos aren't really adventurous eaters, Anton says. "We try and do some interesting combinations, but we also try to keep our food really simple and let the execution shine." Q

For inquiries, text 0927-9140294 and 0916-3671239 or e-mail chefsmiguel@yahoo.com.

Roasted duck breast with cauliflower custard and sundried cherry



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Businesswatch

Would you let Michael de Mesa cut your beloved doggie's hair?

The respected actor and director has found a new preoccupation, pampering his pooches and catering to dog-crazy Pinoys who want to pamper theirs. And it all comes with his happy new life

by Alya B. Honasan
photographs by August dela Cruz

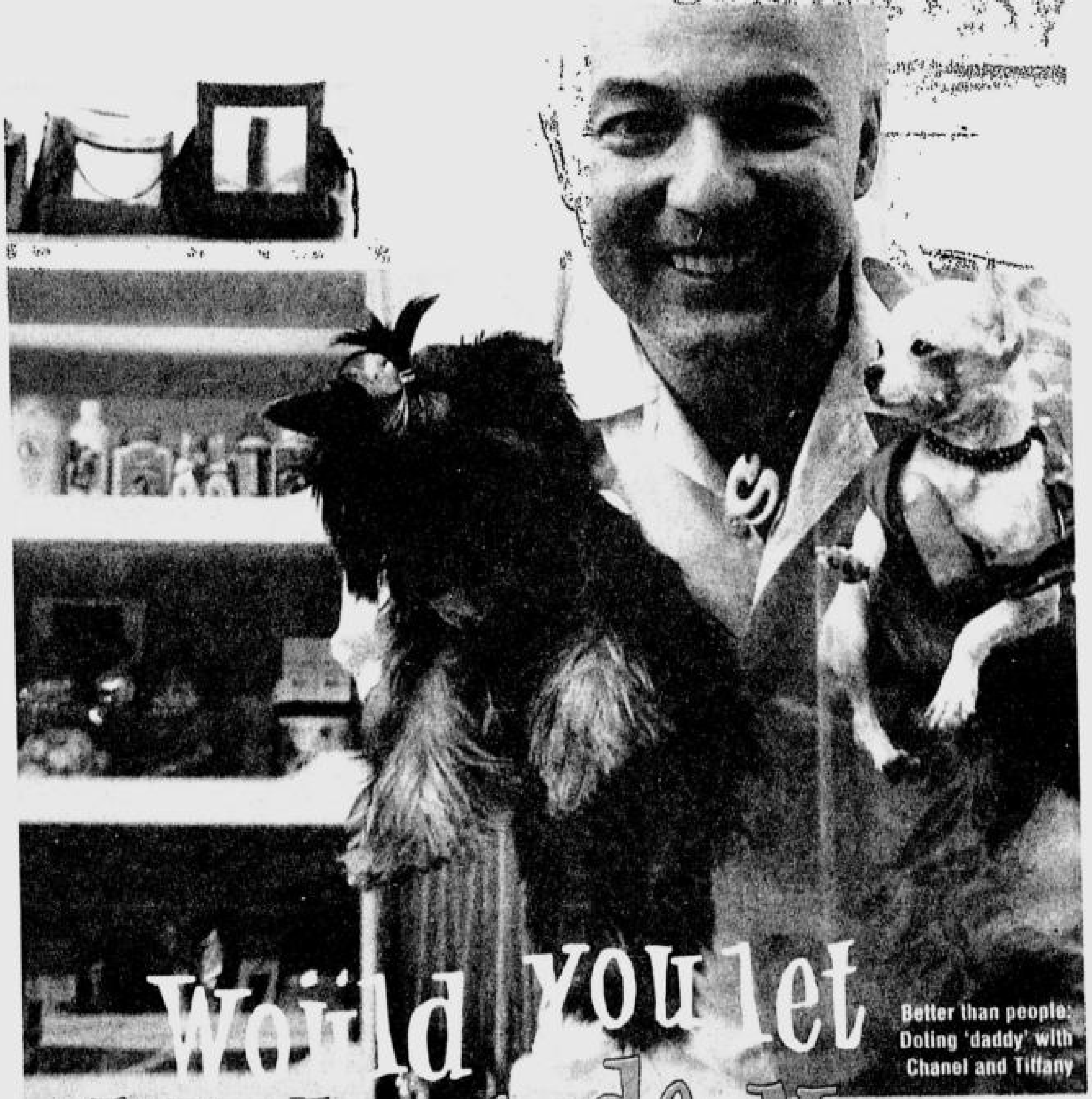
K9 Couture
Fashion For Your Furry Friends
Pet Boutique & Grooming Salon

REMEMBER actor and director Michael de Mesa in the recent indie hit movie "Big Time"? You know, where he played a menacing goon boss killing off people, garbed in a *sando* and blowing puffs of smoke from behind a desk?

Well, try this: Imagine the same Michael de Mesa, 45-year-old actor of film, TV and stage, facing the cameras since he was 13 and himself now father to three young actors—Ryan, Geoff and AJ—with the same seemingly genetic gifts for staring down the camera. Imagine this big, bald guy with the intense eyes and a self-confessed impulsive streak, and he's dressing up a teacup chihuahua named Tiffany, who's about the size of his hand, in a tiny red dress with ruffled spaghetti straps. He's doing it so tenderly and gently, cooing to the little dog ever so softly, you have to do a double take.

"Well, why not?" Michael says with a laugh. "They deserve to be pampered."

Pampering pooches is the business of K9 Couture, the pet boutique and grooming salon in Tiendesitas, Libis that Michael owns with his girlfriend of five years, Hot Legs dancer Julie Reyes. The store opened only last January 27, just in time for the Chinese Year of the Dog, and has been doing good business since. In fact, soon after Michael walked in with Tiffany and Chanel, a Yorkshire terrier—they've also got Boogie, a shi tzu, and Marshall, a Shetland sheepdog—more folks with pets come to line up after Ichi, the shih tzu-poodle mix who's currently getting a summer cut in K9's pristine grooming room.



Better than people: Doting 'daddy' with Chanel and Tiffany

Going gaga

K9 is more than just a cute little business with cute clients, known for RTW and made-to-order doggie fashions that dog owners are going gaga over; check out the grey and pink track suits, and they've even made doggie outfits for weddings. But the business also represents a return to a passion Michael has had since he was a kid.

"It wasn't part of the plan, of our road map," Michael recounts. It all started when he and Julie bought Boogie and discovered the Pet Village in Tiendesitas, now known among animal insiders as a great place to shop for pets and pet products. The couple befriended Jay and Doreen Mendoza, owners of another Tiendesitas shop, Animals and Things, who encouraged them to make a business of the dog clothes that Julie had already been making.

"We started with bazaars, and the first one was in Eastwood for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)," says Michael, who is an honorary member of the volunteer animal rights group. After putting up a website (www.k9couture.com.ph), Michael and Julie started getting orders "from as far away as Cagayan and Davao, and we started by doing business in the house." Later, uncomfortable with the people coming in and out of their Ortigas Center condo, the couple lined up for a vacancy at Tiendesitas, and the store was opened. Michael is now in the shop almost every day, and has even sold a number of puppies from reputable breeders.

Both Michael and Julie grew up with dogs. "When I was 2, I had a best friend, a German Shepherd named King," he recalls. With both parents and siblings Mark and Cherie also into pets, there was a time when the whole brood lived under one roof with as many as 17 dogs. "They were part of the family. Living with pets teaches you to be more understanding and patient, because like kids they can also get on your nerves. But I think dogs are easier to deal with than people sometimes," Michael says with a laugh.

Because they deserve it: Michael grooms Ichi, a shih tzu-poodle mix and a client at K9

Big or small

He likes them big or small, Michael says, although he professes a preference for labrador retrievers, which he used to breed until he had to move into a condo. In fact, moving into a house is a future plan, so he can go back to breeding these gentle giants.

Despite having had no previous experience in dog shows, Michael is also especially proud of Marshall, who has been reaping awards as a show puppy. "The first time I saw him, I knew he had the X-factor, he had character," he says, like a doting parent. And yes, he and Julie spoil the dogs to pieces. "We take very, very good care of them."

Michael actually grooms his own dogs, and is planning to expand K9, and take more courses abroad to give him an edge in what he considers a fast-growing enterprise in this country. "It can be a tough business, because you meet different types of people."

He can tell a puppy cut from a summer cut and other more specific styles, for long-haired breeds like poodles, cocker spaniels, mini-schnauzers—but Michael is also not beyond telling off an irresponsible pet owner who brings in a dog with dirty, matted hair. "People can be ignorant about the responsibilities of being a dog owner. Shih tzu puppies are really cute, for example, but they need a lot of work. Sometimes when they're brought here, our only choice is to shave off the hair because it's in bad shape. Neglect is a kind of cruelty also. I try to compose myself, and I say, 'Sorry *po, pero kasalanan ninyo yan.* (It's your fault.) And they cannot tell me it's not true!"

Maybe they're just star-struck, getting grooming advice from an *artista?* "Maybe, you can't discount that," Michael says with a shrug. "But I'd love to be an instrument for teaching people responsibility for their pets."

That's why the idea of dog eating enrages him. "I don't care if it's cultural or otherwise, it's still wrong," says Michael, a Born Again Christian. "I mean, the Bible already tells us everything we can eat, and dogs aren't there! *Minamahal ang aso, hindi kinakain.* (Dogs are loved, not eaten.)"

Bread and butter

Although he's definitely hands-on in the business—he can pick up the scissors and groom a dog if he had to—acting remains his first love and bread and butter, Michael admits. "I still consider myself an actor and director first, although in this business, you're only as good as your last movie." The movie industry may not exactly have been sizzling in the last few years, but Michael's recent body of acting work has been good, what with indie films like "Big Time" and stage work, from plays like "Proof" to musicals like "Once on This Island" and "Rent" a few years ago, where Michael was a singing revelation.

"Nobody's been making movies as much, and if ever they do, it's the same formula," Michael says. "The nice thing with theater and indie films is, I get to explore, do characters I've never done. There's no star system—it's just the story." He has also done recent TV work in serials like "Mulawin" and *"Sugo."*

With his experience, Michael knows he's in a position to be a bit picky, but "work is work," he says. "If I had a choice, I'd only do things that are worthwhile, but I'm still grateful for what's offered to me, and for the fact that, with all the actors around, I was still the one they picked."

On the personal front, things have settled down after the very public and final end of his 23-year marriage to actress Gina Alajar, but Michael assures they're "fine. In the beginning it was hard, but it was something we both had to accept, that we would be better off if we were not together."

In the genes

The boys stay with their mom, and Michael claims he has "neither discouraged nor encouraged" their showbiz careers. "I guess it's legacy, it's in the genes," he says. "And they're old enough to decide what they want; AJ, the youngest, is turning 21 *na.* I always just tell them to keep their feet on the ground, and remind them to love their jobs so that their job will love them back. They can make easy money, but in the long run it will be talent that will prevail. They cannot set that aside, no matter what."

For himself, Michael says it was

To page 6

It's a stretch

...from page 3

bash. "I've always believed that if you want to change the world, you have to start with your own spot. If I wanted to change the showbiz writing environment, I should begin with my own publication."

That Maglipon has done, agrees talent manager Douglas Quijano, who cites the magazine for having given local showbiz writing the respectability and credibility that have long eluded it. Quijano once described the "slow death" that the publication dealt "the usual black and white, sloppily-produced, press release-driven reportage previously deemed acceptable in the business." The magazine, he adds, started a trend that now has other movie rags using better paper and more colored pictures on top of better editing.

That the magazine has managed to keep its circulation figures "from the audited 120,000 to 140,000 level—the highest of any local magazine in any niche, according to our publisher Lisa Gokongwei—is proof enough that the *masa* is ready for quality showbiz publications," says an elated Maglipon.

Blind items

Not that it has been easy, she says. "The first three years were all about learning the ropes, getting my feet wet and navigating the landmines," she recalls. Among the early lessons she had learned was to steer clear of blind items despite the readers' clamor for them. "They make writers careless because they can write all those innuendoes and hide behind a cloak of anonymity. I find it cowardly; there's no sense of responsibility," she notes. After three issues, she decided to do away with the items.

Another lesson: "If you're not comfortable with any section, trust your instinct and do away with it." That she did with columns, sparing only one (by Pete Lacaba). "With columns, the editor tends to lose control over what the columnist writes," she says, a particularly sensitive area since most showbiz writers moonlight as publicists for movie stars and production outfits.

As for the usual practice of passing around envelopes that contain more than just publicity pictures and press releases, Maglipon says she made it known early on that they were not necessary. "Once word gets around that you don't accept envelopes, they stop trying to slip you one. But the thing is, you have to return the envelopes quietly, without making a fuss. You don't want the giver to feel insulted or the other writers to think you're passing judgment on them." Fortunately, she adds, her staff has taken their cue from her.

Shortest route to fame

Another tricky area is the current obsession among the young to enter show business at all costs, seeing it as the shortest and most glamorous route to fame, fortune and profitable endorsements. Does Maglipon feel any responsibility for fostering this mentality by adding to the buzz?

"I think it's more a matter of family values," she says. "*Matulungin ang mga bata* (the kids are helpful)and they feel pressured to help the family. This is just one more way of doing that."

But yes, she admits, she would like to focus on more substantial and diverse entertainment stuff for the magazine, make it live up to its name. Yes!, says Maglipon, stands for Your Entertainment Source, and entertainment includes not just movies but also theater, documentaries, indie films and even books, something she's been wanting to get into for the longest time.

"But the problem is, has always been, space," she sighs. "There are limited pages and you have to divide them among various stories to have a good mix. That's what makes a good magazine: the mix, the team work, the production values."

That would come, she says confidently, all in good time. "But the way to do it is to let your readers like you first, so you can later win them over when you try something different."

In the meantime, she says, she is enjoying herself and savoring her interaction with movie stars whom she has gotten to know as "real people you can relate to. They have the same problems as ordinary folk. They worry about money because most of them are breadwinners, they worry about looks, aging and fading from the scene, especially in this culture of youth, and they're smart. Given the same exposure to any topic, they have a fantastic learning curve. You'd be surprised!"

Lucy, Gretchen, Kris

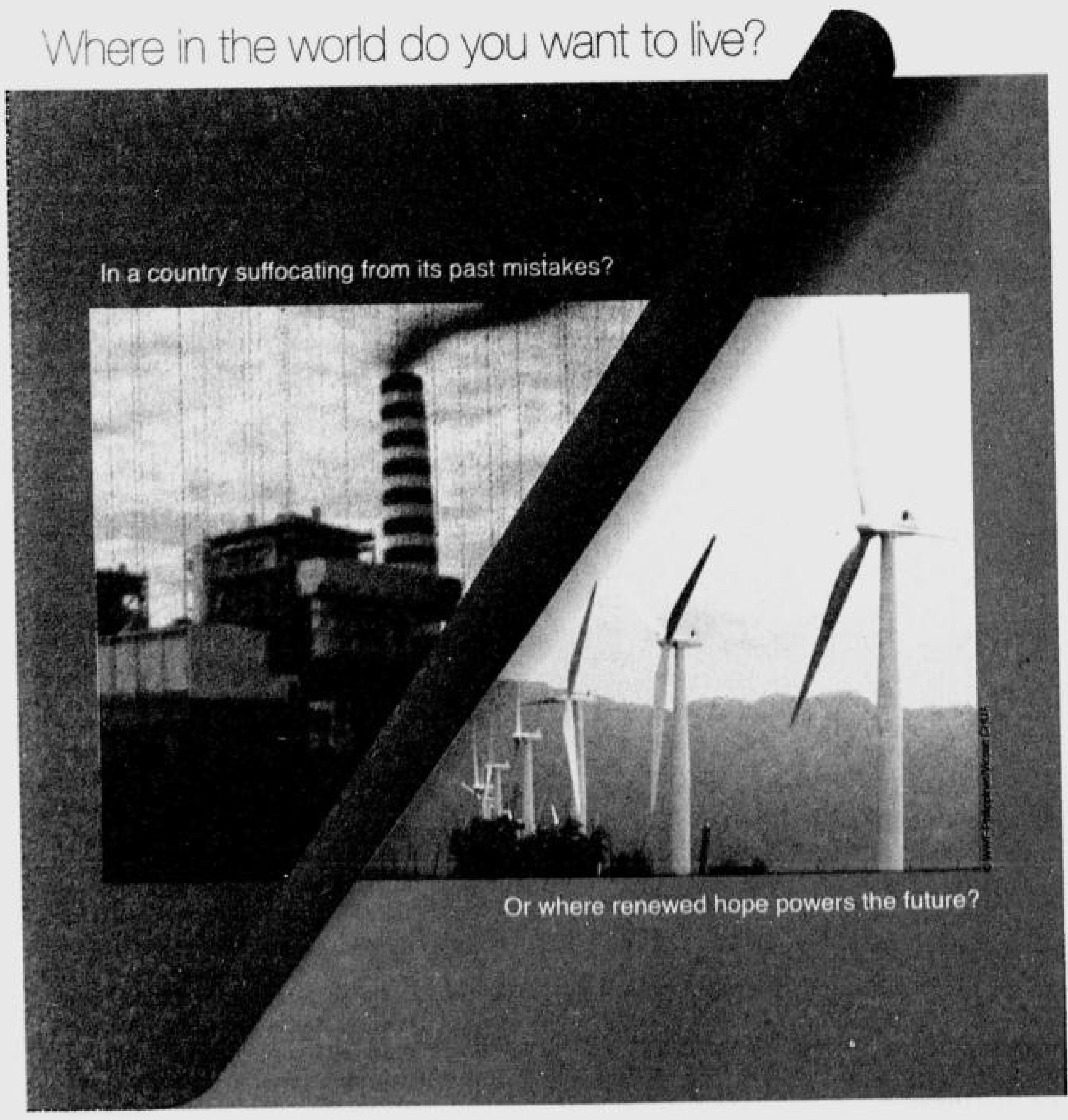
Among the screen personalities she has come to like personally are Lucy Torres ("always kind and gracious, never talks about herself but constantly shifts the topic to you"), Gretchen Barretto (and not because of their common enemy, her sister Claudine), and Kris Aquino ("who always makes me laugh even when she's dead serious, and will always find something positive to comment on about you.")

When she's not writing about movies or watching them on DVDs (her favorites are "Raging Bull," Ishmael Bernal movies, Charito Solis), she is writing scripts for a docu on voters' education for high schoolers, doing her bit as part of the advisory board of Newsbreak magazine, or scouring thrift shops for one more antique for her house that's constantly under renovation.

"Fixing the house is my therapy," says Maglipon; who grew up in an old house in Alaminos, Pangasinan and thus finds comforting familiarity and history in old homes.

Less comforting is the Claudine Barretto case, which she finds bothersome as far as Philippine journalism is concerned. "A ruling in Claudine's favor would mean opening the gates to all sorts of restrictions on the coverage of newsmakers.

"But I believe that I'm on the right track," she muses. Proof of that, Maglipon adds, is the fact that the only invited celebrities who didn't go to the Yes! Anniversary bash were those who were either abroad or had a taping. "There was a lot of goodwill all around, which means I must be doing something right." Q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LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

When the 'I' replaces the 'we' in a relationship

We've become cold to each other. It's as if he doesn't want me to succeed or to have my own life

Dear Joe,

Although Ben is six years my senior, we enjoyed each other's company. I was still a student then and he was an FX driver. When he and I met, I still had a boyfriend, but that relationship didn't last. My ex-boyfriend lied to me all the time and when we broke up, Ben became my light. We were so happy together.

I accepted Ben for what he was because I loved him, but he never seemed to accept me for what I was. He would often nag me about what I had to do, even if it was just school stuff. We would fight a lot. I lost his trust when I lied to him so he became really strict with me. But I told myself that he was a good catch and that I shouldn't just let a good man go. My family was difficult, but he won them over.

Months passed and he continued to be strict with me. I couldn't even enjoy my last two years in college because he was always around to check on me. I didn't complain because I thought it would make him accept me. I was hoping that doing what he wanted would make him trust me.

I'm now working for an international company. About six months ago, Ben decided to go back to studying. I was really against it because he was already a Physical Therapy graduate. I wanted him to review for the battery of exams and pursue being a therapist, but he just ignored me. I never made him feel bad about the things he couldn't give me even if I was hurting inside. I graduated from Mass Comm with high grades, but I didn't look for a job in that field because I was afraid I wouldn't have enough time to spend with him and my family.

Three months after he went back to study, he became too preoccupied with school. I want to understand him, but I just feel that it's so unfair. I find it so selfish of him. We've become cold to each other but we're just too scared to admit it. It's as if he doesn't want me to succeed or to have my own life. I know we still love each other, but honestly I don't know what to do anymore.

Sincerely yours,
Anna

Anna,

I completely understand what you are going through. You may not be aware of it but you are actually competing with each other, and competition in a relationship kills. You want to pursue something which you believe would make you a better person but he doesn't want it. You want him to follow his line of education but he wants something else. Now the "I" has become the priority over the "you" and the "we." You are living on the same plane but existing in two different worlds.

Anna, it seems that Ben has everything focused on himself more than anybody else. A relationship that veers towards just one side of the road can never truly succeed because it is not only his happiness that should matter but yours as well. The fact that you feel this way towards him means that there is something that needs to be addressed. You have come to a point in your relationship when romance has faded away and has been replaced by feelings of resentment and indifference.

One of the greatest measures of love is its ability to let the other person grow with freedom and not with fear. Love should be able to give us enough space to be ourselves and explore our world yet still be within reach of caring and protective arms. Love should be happy when others succeed and make good in their ways. Love should be concerned not only with its own needs but that of others as well. When we learn to love without comparing and counting, then we have learned to love the way we should.

Anna, you have already given so much of yourself. You deserve to be happy with the person who will love you more than he loves himself. Give yourself the chance to find that person and you will discover the happiness in knowing that you are loved more than anything else in this world. Q

Get Joe D' Mango's love tips and advice on your mobile phones. Just text ON DEARJOE to 2968. Open to all Smart, Globe and Sun subscribers. Visit the official LoveNotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

Would

...from page 4

Julie who helped him "get more in touch with the real world." They met through friends when they were both newly separated. "She didn't care if I was Michael de Mesa. All my life has been showbiz, and when you're part of that world, *iba ang* train of thought *mo*, everything is a fantasy. She taught me a lot about dealing with people and realizing who I really am. For her, I'm a person just like her who has to live in the real world."

It took some adjustment, after the high-profile life of a showbiz personality. "You would always have people who do things for you, and you can get away with so many things. Now, I do everything myself, I go to Megamall, I do the groceries. I had never even *been* to Megamall before. Julie put me in that spot—this is life, and this is what you are."

The 13-year age difference doesn't matter, either. "Many times, I'm even more immature than she is. I used to be jealous and possessive, and I'm a very impulsive person. I guess that's me as an artist, it's very instinctive. I can react to certain things in a way that's not right. She teaches me to think a hundred times before reacting, which is hard for me."

Atta girl: Holding Tiffany, a teacup chihuahua

Nowadays, it's a simple life that also includes watching movies, going to the spa, eating out, and watching DVDs. But it's a life that has given him much peace and happiness. If he had a tail, Michael de Mesa would certainly be wagging it. Q

K9 Couture is at the Pet Village of Tiendesitas on E. Rodriguez Ave., Libis, Quezon City, tel. no. 633-8698.

This Week

Art

Infant Eyes, a solo exhibit by Cris Villanueva at Mag:net Katipunan, 335 Agcor Building, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC until April 29. For details, call 929-3191.

Alter Images, a veritable gallery of portraits and images of acquaintances by Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, until April 30 at The Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St. cor. Lantana St, Cubao. QC.

Olazo & Olazo, a two-man exhibit by father and son Romulo and Jonathan Olazo at Galleria Duemila 2000, 210 Loring St., Pasay City until April 30. For details, call 831-9990.

The Alcove Photo Gallery celebrates Jay Alonzo's 10th year of teaching photography with an exhibit, **J@X: Ten Years of Jay Alonzo**, a visual display of his past and most recent works. The prints on display are available for purchase. For details, call 892-1801 or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.ph.

Bembol dela Cruz exhibits at Mag:net ABS-CBN

The History of Things, Bembol dela Cruz's paintings of various objects realistically rendered on a ground of elastometric sealant fedseal, at the Mag:net ABS-CBN, Mother Ignacia Avenue cor. Eugenio Lopez St., QC, until April 30.

Stairway Gallery located at Imacron Media Center Building, 115 Kamuning Road, QC holds three simultaneous exhibits until April 30: **De-Installing the Forest**, a Bobby Castillo-Penny Velasco interaction; **Louie Stuart** features his solar prints together with works on paper by Bencab, Manny Baldemor, Fil dela Cruz, Jaime de Guzman and Santi Bose, and **Early Works** by world-renowned fiber artist Paz Abad Santos using indigenous art. For details, call 920-1375.

Cinema

The **UP Film Institute** holds a **World Environment Day** celebration with the special screening of Jean-Jacques Annaud's wildlife epic, "Two Brothers," on April 26 at 5 p.m. The screening will be preceded by the special return engagement of Zalman King's Climax (aka "Shame, Shame, Shame") at 2 p.m. Not to be missed as well is a German cinema showcase with Arthur Brauner Retrospective: A Tribute to Humanity and Tolerance from May 15 to 19 at 2 and 5 p.m. For Saturdays @ UP Film Institute; forthcoming big-screen treats are as follows: April 29—"Teach Me" (2 p.m.) and "My Wife's Lover" (5 p.m.); May 6—"Wide Sargasso Sea" (2 p.m.) and "Snake Charmer" (5 p.m.); May 13—Celso Ad. Castillo's "Snake Sisters" (2 p.m. with repeat at 7 p.m.) and "Climax" aka "Shame, Shame, Shame" (5 p.m.); May 20—Seiko Films' "Liberated 1 & 2" (2 and 5 p.m.); May 27—"Tales of Erotica" (2 p.m.) and "Night Job" (5 p.m.); June 3—"The Beneficiary" (2 p.m.) and "Secrets of the Black Hole" (5 p.m.). For queries, call cinema hotline 926-3640, telefax 926-2722 or email upfilminstitute@hotmail.com.

Onstage

Zsazsa Zaturnnah (Ze Muzikal) will have a rerun at the PETA Theater Center at #5 Sunny Side Drive, Bgy. Kristong Hari, Quezon City until April 30, with matinees at 2:30 p.m. (Sat/Sun) and evening shows at 7:30 p.m. (Fri/Sat/Sun). For ticket inquiries, bookings and reservations, please call the TP office at 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621 or 0920-9535419 for the 7:30 p.m. show on April 28, and the Bright Eyed Boys Events & Ideas Inc. at 521-0412 / 0922-8712001 to 2004 for the performances on April 23, 29 and 30.

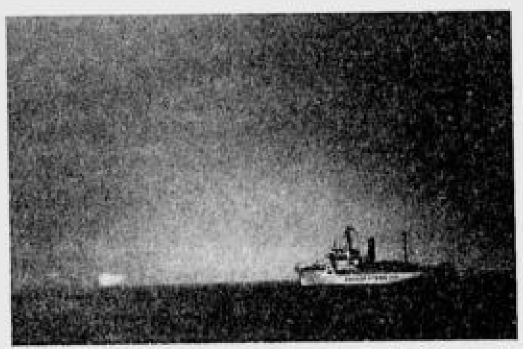
A spectacular show of magical and aerial dancing, **Powerdancing in the Dark**, by Douglas Nierras Powerdance is set at the Meralco Theater on April 30 and May 1. A new concept, Black Theater Dance will break the physical barriers of gravity and human body. In this show, dancing is not limited to the ground but walls and thin air also become the dance floor. For inquiries, call 995-8287 and 995-8283.

Repertory Philippines presents **Two and Two Make Sex**, a play about modern relationships and marriage infidelity in typical British drawing room comedy style using hastily thought-up lies, ridiculous cover-ups, and mistaken identity. It will run until May 7 with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:30 p.m. at Onstage in Greenbelt One, Makati. Please call 887-0710 or 891-9999 (Ticketworld) for information and reservations.

Music

Tipa ... Nyoy Volante Jams showcases Nyoy Volante's versatility and musicality in an intimate concert series to be held at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila on May 10, 11, 12 and 13. The show will offer a repertoire that chronicles the timeless classics from the '50s to the '90s, as well as today's selected chart-toppers. Joining Nyoy as his special guests are acoustic artists Paolo Santos, Pido, Noel Cabangon, Maegan Aguilar, Gary Granada, and the legendary Ramon "RJ" Jacinto (May 11 and 13). For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum at 721-6726 & 721-0635; Ticketworld at 891-5610; 7003 Dynamix at 533-0642, 718-0945 or 0920-9515567.

Atbp



Jay Alonzo's photographs at the Alcove Photo Gallery

The Filipino Department of De La Salle University-Manila will hold the **2006 National Seminar in Filipino** with this year's theme "*Wikang Filipino, Midya at Pagtuturo: Mga Isyu, Perspekib at Pamamaraan*" from April 26 to April 28 at Room 407-408, Yuchengco Building of DLSU-Manila. Lecturers are Dr. Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Dr. Isagani R. Cruz, Rogelio Mangahas, Maria Jovita Zarate, Dr. Teresita Maceda, among others. Registration fee P3,000. For inquiries, call 524-46-11 local 509/552.

The Marikina Riverbanks Activity Center, Marikina City is hosting a **Summer Job Expo 2006** on April 28-29. Job openings listed in the Job Expo are from Business Process Outsourcing, Hospitality Industries, Wearable Retailers, Food Manufacturers and Services, International Recruitment Companies, Health Care Industries and Automotive and Engineering. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-3482 and 825-0804.

Ana Bitong and Arnel Carrion in Rep's "Two and Two Make Sex" at Onstage Greenbelt

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will conduct a **practical digital photography seminar** starting on April 29. The workshop covers digital camera functions, correct exposure, flash in low light and bright light, digital file formats, pixel damage, and preparing images for print, presentations and web transmission. Basic requirements are digital camera and familiarity with Microsoft Windows operation. For details, call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

Workshops at the Lopez Museum: **Cartooning Workshop** for ages 6 to 10 years old, four Saturdays starting April 25 from 2-4 p.m. Fee is P3,000 inclusive of materials. **Book Illustration Workshop** for college students and those who wish to create an appreciation for children's books and learn aspects of its production, five Saturdays starting April 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Lopez memorial Museum is at the ground floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-2417 or email pezseum@skyinet.net.

The Career and Education Fair, May 3-4, World Trade Center, Pasay City, Manila. Thousands of job openings, free English Fluency Assessment and Job-Matching Personality tests, and free Career Development Seminars on Out-of-the-Box Job Hunting, Increasing Your Job Search Success, How To Be Globally Competitive, and a deeper look at career paths in advertising, magazine publication, hotels, human resources, banking and finance, and more. Call 914-8000, email marketing@jobsdb.com.ph or log on at www.jobsdb.com.ph.

Actor's Actors Inc. opens its doors to aspiring and professional performers in its **2006 Summer Acting Workshop** to be conducted by Bart Guingona. Open to teens and adults, the workshop will be intensive and craft-centered and will only be available to those who are seriously pursuing a career in performance. The workshop will be held from May 2-20 with limited slots available. For inquiries, call AAI at 536-5844 or text 0917-5289746.

X-manila

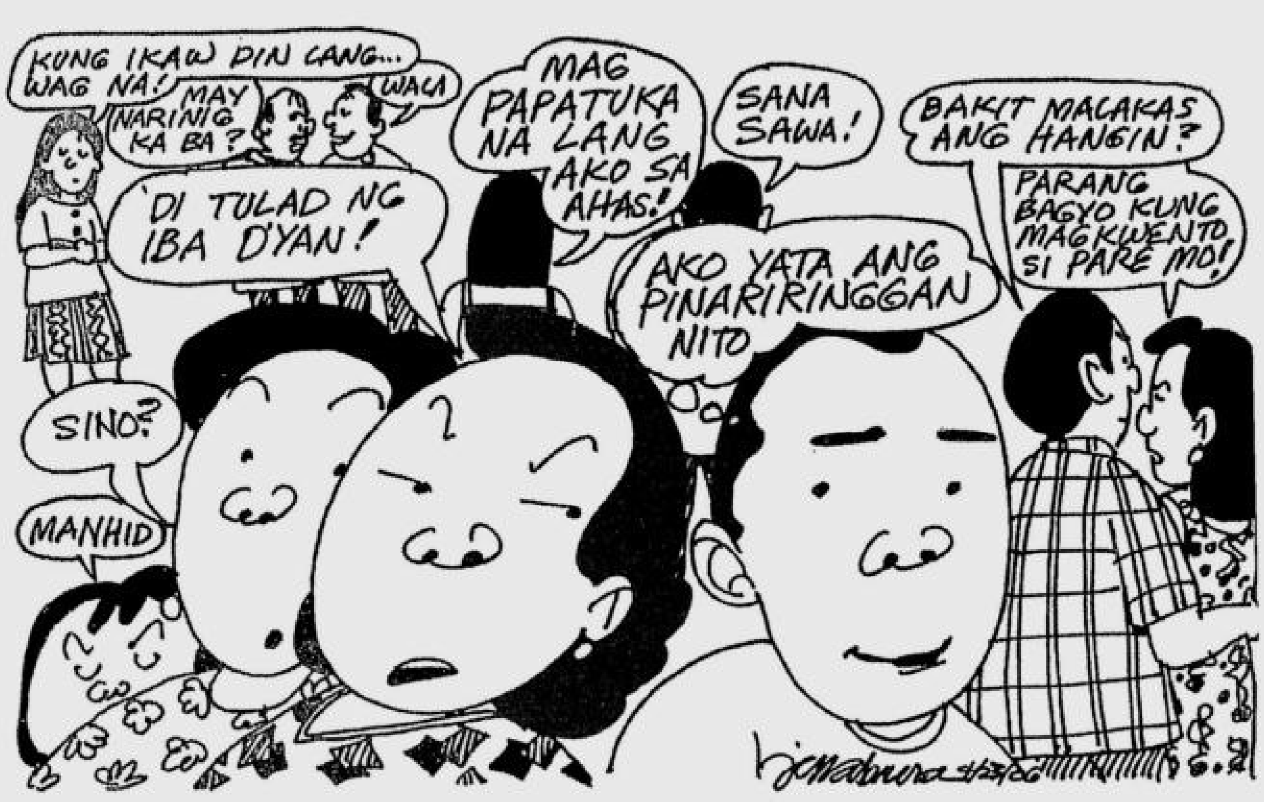
Holistic Education and Development Center at The Little Farm House (95 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision, Taytay, Rizal) is offering **Summer Soccer** for children from pre-school to high school from May 2-27, Mondays through Fridays (except Wednesdays). The schedules for the different levels are: 6:30-8:30 a.m. (high school); 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (Grade 3 to Grade 6), and 3:30-5 p.m. (preschool to Grade 2). The fee is P2,000. The football clinic/workshop will be conducted by Coach Sugar and Coach Juaqui Gutierrez. For inquiries, call 658-3489 or 658-2968.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Patutsada



KUNG IKAW DIN LANG... WAG NA!
MAY NARINIG KA BA?
WALA
'DI TULAD NG IBA D'YAN!
MAG PAPATUKA NA LANG AKO SA AHAS!
SANA SAWA!
BAKIT MALAKAS ANG HANGIN?
PARANG BAGYO KUNG MAGKWENTO SI PARE MO!
AKO YATA ANG PINARIRINGGAN NITO
SINO?
MANHID
jmabrera

TV GUIDE

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC
Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

*Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Dance Fever		Martin Nievera TV Special	
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	SCQ Kids			The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		Ronin					Samsung Sports World	AXN Shakedown		Gamemax (Season II)	Mondo Magic Singapore	Sports Disaster VI		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Pet Alien	Tom & Jerry Show	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Megas XLR	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Seatlab 2021
Cinema One				Forever My Love				Can This Be Love				Nasaan Ka Man				Bahid			
Cinemax			Three Way (3:45 PM)			Shadow Of Doubt (5:15 PM)				Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story				Devour			Pleasantville		
CNN		World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveler	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Main Sail	CNN Presents	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Content		I, Detective	Takedown	Law & Order		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		Mega Moves		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		China's Mega Dams				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire	Totally Spies- Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship				LPGA Golf Mastercard Classic Honoring				Classic Boxing J. Frazier vs. O. Bonavena		Classic Boxing F. Patterson vs. O. Bonavena		Major League Baseball Sat. Orioles Vs Yankees					
ETC		American Dreams 2		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend	Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 4		Queer Eye For Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/Tuck 3		Rated Oh!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blowout 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	The Biggest Loser		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavio Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Jologs		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel			The Prince And The Pauper			I Was A Teenage Faust				Just Cause		Child Of Our Time 2012		Sunday Premiere			Sunday Premiere		
HBO	Deadwood 17: Complications (2:20 PM)	Deadwood 18: Something Very Expensive		Uncle Buck (4:15 PM)				Iron Eagle				Constantine				HBO Full Access: The Making Of Constantine	[illegible] (10:20PM)		
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Super Yoyo	Ragnarok	Musumet	The Slayers	Baron One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrixx	Dragons	Fire & Ice	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Zenki	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Ito Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hate Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Jack Yard	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network		Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Titus				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Handpicked Sandwich	Massive	MTV News	Get Hitched	Homecoming	Laguna Beach		Pimp My Ride		PunkD		VH1 Presents: 50 Greatest Women of the Video Era				MTV Hits	Rax in the City	MTV Screen	Sessions: Sandwich
MYX	Top Picks	Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News		OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation		Nat Geo Investigates: The Bomb In Oklahoma City		Built For The Kill		Marine Machines		Storm Stories	Rough Trades	MegaStructures: Ultimate Oil Rig		Best Of The Week		Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation		Nat Geo Investigates: Fire On The Star	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sabay-Sabay)						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress In Action		Corporate Boards League		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Special Events from Malacañang
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls in Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			To Saudi With Love				Utang Ko Sa'yo Ang Buhay Ko				Koka				Celebration Of Love				Ilusyon
Qtv		Joan Of Arcadia		Kaleido Star		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Filorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports									NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs									
Sports Plus	EPL Preview Series 10				Inside the PGA	Rookie Manual	Sipstrum	Billy Bob Celebrity Poker Challenge				World's Greatest Auto Shows		Raceworld		Shell Houston Open Day3			
Star Movies			The Cop (3:20 PM)			Sahara (5:05 PM)				The Distinguished Gentleman				Taxi			Jeepers Creepers 2		
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules/ Arrested Development	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Winfrey Show		Koffee With Karan		Coupling		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23						Exposed				Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	US Girls	Planet Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Exhibition (10:45PM)		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES BAGS ANVILS

In the 41st Anvil Awards, Toyota Motor Philippines won an Award of Merit for its Vios - The IMC Challenge program and an Award of Excellence for its Toyota Classics, an annual program that brings in foreign orchestras to the country and donates all proceeds of the concert to a specific charity. Receiving the award given at the Manila Hotel are (from left): Titus Arce, group account director, Dentsu Philippines; Elijah Sue Marcial of the marketing services section, Toyota; Michelle Bayani, marketing communications officer, Toyota; Nonna Nanagas, president, Dentsu Philippines; Nina Yumul, events associate, Dentsu Philippines and Jelly Quiambao, group account director, Dentsu Philippines.

PLDT SIGNS MOA WITH GENERALI PILIPINAS

PLDT and Generali Pilipinas recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the provisioning of PLDT WeRoam Mobile VPN, a service that provides mobile workers and remote offices with continuous, wireless broadband data connectivity. Generali Pilipinas is part of the Generali Group, the 5th largest insurance group in the world. Shown during the contract signing are (seated, from left): Luigi Lopa, PLDT corporate business head; Ernesto Alberto, PLDT SVP and head of corporate business group; Augustus J. V. Ferreria, GP EVP and chief marketing officer and Edgardo T. Lim, GP VP for information systems services; (standing, from left): Mikael Diaz de Rivera, GP senior manager for national sales support and compliance; Joel T. Tanangonan, GP AVP for information systems services; Suzette de Claro, PLDT relationship manager and Percival Cirilo S. Flores, GPVP for Bancassurance.

BPI WINS GOLD QUILL

The Bank of the Philippine Islands was recently adjudged the best in the marketing communication category for its campaign targeted at our overseas Filipinos, the Expat Pinoys. The BPI Expat Pinoy Program is a comprehensive program of personal financial planning and management to support the bank's business among Filipinos abroad. Accepting the award fro BPI is SVP Nita Claravall (second from left) joined by SVP Tessie Tan (3rd from left) and Athena Balleza and Bolet Arevalo of the Expat Pinoy Segment.

Celebrating Two Serendra's near completion

LAST JAN. 31, LEADING LIFESTYLE EXperts, Community Innovations celebrated the near completion of Two Serendra, a residential development project at the Bonifacio Global City that boasts of a remarkable lifestyle concept soon to be experienced by its new homeowners.

Right on track for its 2007 turnover, Two Serendra highlights the milestone achievement of its construction with a topping-off ceremony. But more than just being the last construction component being put in its place, this age old tradition celebrates Two Serendra's impending completion.

For Dan Abando, Two Serendra's head of technical services group, "Topping-off is a major accomplishment as far as any construction development is concerned. It is a milestone achievement that pronounces the completion of its construction with the last structural member having been concreted into place."

More importantly, this hallmark event conveys the progress that Two Serendra has made since its inception. "Topping-off declares, particularly to our clients, that we are halfway done with the project and we are surely getting to the completion stage. It also adds excitement to our clients that very soon they will be living in their new homes and enjoy everything that we had promised them."

Built by Community Innovations, Two Serendra offers an unrivaled combination of functional modernity and suburban ideals. Power lines, vehicular traffic, telephone cables and other elements that add clutter to metropolitan living is concealed beneath lush landscapes and Serendra's state-of-the-art infrastructure.

"Although we have our drawings and specifications set, we still look into areas where we can improve by working beyond our limits," said Abando. Community Innovations is well on schedule and is set to turn over the keys to their new homeowners by the following year.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers. For inquiries, call them at 888-0000 or e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Sales Pavilion located along 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City everyday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

PBB FAN TALKS TO HOUSEMATES USING GLOBE 3G

The PBB Housemates Final Four excitedly saw and spoke to a beneficiary of their weekly tasks via Globe 3G. Through Globe's pioneering 3G technology, housemates placed a video call to the beneficiary last Saturday, and gave uplifting advice to the child before he underwent medical treatment. 'Lagi kong pinapanood ang Pinoy Big Brother, paborito ko nga si John Pratts.' Fan and beneficiary, ten-year-old John Christian Domingo, was able to see and hear his favorite PBB stars from the confession room, on the screen of his 3G phone. 'Masaya ako na nakausap ko siya at saka yung ibang nasa bahay ni Kuya!' Each housemate gave him advice to lift his spirits before he began treatment for a congenital valvular heart disease. John Christian's treatment at the National Children's Hospital was jumpstarted with Globe's P100,000 donation. 'Natutuwa kami sa suportang binigay ng Globe para sa kanyang papapagamot at ang pagkakataong makausap niya yung mga PBB housemates,' said Remia Domingo, John Christian's mother. 'Sakitin si John Christian mula pagkabata,' she shared. 'Nagkaroon siya ng tuberculosis at nagkaroon ng 2nd degree malnourishment.'

MASS MARKET
HELLOMOTO
HELL

Hello MOTOBUS!

Motorola's newest innovation in mobility goes beyond the latest cool handset—it's the rockin' and rollin' new MOTOBUS! Designed to bring the Motorola ethos conveniently to Pinoys all over the country, the magnanimous MOTOBUS is a roving menagerie of fun and entertainment. With music, games, interactive on-board zones, and other cool exciting activities to amuse Moto fans of all ages, the MOTOBUS is a phenomenon that is sure to break the monotony of everyday Pinoy life.

The MOTOBUS will bring music and entertainment to various locales around the country. Moto fans everywhere can groove and dance to the original MOTOBUS theme song, Hello Moto.

The song is inspired by the well-known tagline that many of us have already heard (can anyone say, Hello Moto?) and encapsulates the message of Motorola's new MOTOBUS. It's catchy, crazy, and extremely contagious. The best part is that it's easy to sing along to! The song truly represents what the MOTOBUS is all about: being outrageous, avant-garde and ahead of the pack. And let's not forget, tremendously mobile!

Having a positive and happy outlook in life is something that Motorola and the itchyworms share. Life is supposed to be full of fun, and its apparent in the vibrancy and presence of the MOTOBUS. From its vivid colors and images to its eye-catching visuals, the MOTOBUS screams energy from head to toe – or in this case, bumper to bumper.

As the MOTOBUS travels the nation bringing cool new mobile technology and innovation to Filipinos everywhere, the itchyworms will be performing the catchy and oh-so-infectious MOTOBUS theme song Hello Moto!

HELLO MOTO

BY: The itchyworms

Chorus:

Hello Moto
Auto mo 'to
Tayo na sa bus sumakay
Hello Moto
Photo mo 'to
Everybody give it a try

Verse 1:

C'mon let's ride the bus now
C'mon let's make a call
Tara sa Luzviminda
A Moto for everyall
Kapag kayo'y sumama
Wala nang turning back

Bridge:

Oh Let's go Hello Moto
Basta sumama na kayo
Sa loob ng bus ay magra-rock n' roll tayo

Chorus

Verse 2:

Tara let's join the fun now
Bilis sakay ka na
Hawakan at subukan
Maging kakaiba
Kapag kayo'y sumama
Wala nang turning back

itchyworms
HELLOMOTO